

duced last session with respect to Laetrile was not advanced from the Public Health and Welfare Committee and that is the reason that the Legislature, the full Legislature, did not discuss the Laetrile bill last year. I think the committee system is important and I have not voted to bring a bill from the committee of the Unicameral this year. Even though I supported Senator Rumery's LB 403, I did not vote to bring that bill from committee because the Education Committee heard the issue, they listened to the testimony, they studied it. It was a complex issue and they decided not to send it to the floor, and out of respect to the committee system, I did not vote to pull that bill from committee. Now this piece of legislation is ever bit as complex and ever bit as important and perhaps more so than the bill introduced by Senator Rumery. The committee action as the committee stands currently, two individuals voted to kill this bill, three voted to advance it and two did not vote at all. Now I would like to address the Laetrile subject. Evidence presented before the Public Health and Welfare Committee by experts, by the American Medical Association, the Nebraska Medical Association, the American Cancer Society, the Nebraska Medical Center and the Creighton Medical Center indicated that Laetrile is not effective in the treatment of cancer. According to testimony presented by those individuals and others, there is not one shred of evidence in the literature, the medical literature, that Laetrile is effective even though Laetrile is one of the most thoroughly studied and researched substances. Testimony also presented to the Public Works or Public Health Committee indicate that Laetrile is not safe and testimony to this committee indicated that deaths have resulted from the use of Laetrile, large quantities. I would also like to address the current status, the current legal status of Laetrile. Federally there are court decisions overturning the Food and Drug Administrations ban on Laetrile that do allow the use of Laetrile in terminal cases and this goes beyond that. This allows the use of Laetrile in cases which are not necessarily terminal. As far as the State of Nebraska goes, Laetrile is not even mentioned in our state statutes and neither is banana cream pie. There is not a prohibition in this state for someone consuming banana cream pie. Neither is there legislation in the State of Nebraska allowing you to eat banana cream pie. So what I am saying is it is not today forbidden in Nebraska state law and I see no legal reason for the State of Nebraska to allow someone to use something that is not forbidden in state law. Any restrictions, any restrictions on the use of Laetrile are federal not state. And I see this as an issue that should not come before the Nebraska Legislature and this is one I believe should be