

March 14, 1979

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Senator Chambers partially did it, I will do the rest of the formalities now. My special guest today is my daughter, Terri who is in my chair who happens to be sixteen years old today. On the Wesely amendment, Senator Stoney. Senator Dworak, do you wish to speak again to this issue? Then Senator Dworak and then Senator Johnson. Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, a question of Senator Wesely, if he would respond please.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Wesely, will you yield?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Wesely, I am having difficulty in comprehending just exactly what your amendment attempts to accomplish. Could you restate that for me please?

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, basically, Senator Stoney, at this time a funeral home may have a crematory but they can't charge to use the service. Now they also, in some instances, may wish to have a cemetery that is associated with the funeral home. For all I know, there is only one instance of this in the state and that is all I am familiar with and that is in Lincoln, but they can't combine the process and include the full service for people who need it. So this would be an attempt to allow a funeral home to, one, be able to charge for crematory, and, two, under corporate structure, also have a cemetery so that they could have full service. That is the only change.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Dworak. You may use my microphone if you'd like.

SENATOR DWORAK: I wouldn't stand in front of Terri. Mr. President, colleagues, I am still not convinced that this amendment of Senator Wesely's is going to save us the amount of money it purports or save the clients the amount of money it is purported to do. It appears to me that we are restricting the options of the family. It appears to me that if you have this one service from the mortician right to the cemetery, there is going to be a hesitancy or an impediment of choice on what cemetery you wish to be interred in. I know that you still have that choice, but if these morticians have that interest in the cemetery as well as the embalming process, it seems to me that that is going to be an automatic thing and the possibility of increasing prices as far as cemeteries is concerned is going to be very real. It just seems to me like we are building a monopoly here, so