

March 22, 1979

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to return this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, there were 21 votes to adopt a portion of this amendment. I think we could probably find four people among those who did not vote who can see the significance of the issue and let there be a hearing where the public can come in. What Senator Murphy in his ilk would try to do is make you think that because an idea occurred to somebody at the federal level before it occurred to somebody at the state level, it therefore is tainted somehow, but what Senator Murphy and the rest of the people who feel like him toward the federal government don't seem to understand, if a state does not have law on the subject or if the state does have law, what the rule or regulation from the federal agency says is going to become law anyway. So what you are being told this morning is that because the federal government is thinking about offering protection to the consumer which is needed, the state ought not allow any kind of protection for the consumer. So I think there should be a return of this bill to a committee, and if the Health Committee does not want to deal with it, there are others that very well can, but while we have the ear of the undertakers, while some aspects or some facets of the public are aware of this issue pending, I think we ought to call a public hearing. We ought to let the matters contained in the amendment be reviewed and then see what the outcome will be. So I am in favor of Senator Fowler's motion, and what we ought to remember is that this bill is different, Senator Murphy, from the other bills that come before the Legislature. It was not offered by a particular individual for a particular purpose. It is what you might call a legislative bill which deals with sunset. It is something which when new information comes in should be modified and dealt with on that basis. I believe what has happened in this instance is that some morticians have contacted various Senators and changed their minds on this matter and that is where the real problem lies. So let us put this bill before a committee. It should preferably be one where I am a member or I should be made an ad hoc member of whatever committee would hear the bill so that the morticians can respond to the questions that I will ask. Then we will be certain that both sides, if there are two sides, of the issue can be properly considered. I am asking that you adopt Senator Fowler's motion. Remember again, sunset legislation is different from a routine bill. When any matters of substance come before us which bear on the