

March 26, 1979

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I approached Senator Murphy last week and I think he hit the nail on the head. I said, Senator, I said, could you support this bill to the floor of the Legislature at least for debate, and I went on to explain to him what the bill was all about. He said, you know, Senator, he said, as far as I am concerned, he said, today when we treat a person who has an illness, 90% of that treatment is mental. 90% is mental, on the other hand, do you realize that up to 85% of all people today who are hospitalized are people who think they have something wrong with them, who think they have something wrong with them and there is nothing organically wrong with 85% of all people today who are in the hospital.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: One other thing, ladies and gentlemen, I talked to one lady whose mother is undergoing Laetrile treatment in I believe it is Ponca, Oklahoma. In a two months span, ladies and gentlemen, they have spent \$7,000 in taking her mother to that clinic for treatment. I think that is wrong. That is all, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I have very, very grave misgivings about this bill and the whole question of Laetrile but I also have grave misgivings about conventional treatment that doctors give for what are considered conventional ailments. Take the common cold as they call it. Nobody can cure the cold, yet they allow various substances to be sold and prescribed for the treatment of it to relieve the symptoms. Now what I would not have any hesitancy about voting for is a bill which would allow terminally ill cancer patients to use anything they want but let us forget the stage of the cancer. Who in this body feels that a person is required by the Constitution or any law to receive treatment for any ailment? You have a constitutional right to refuse treatment for any ailment. Now the law for some reason has put it in the hands of parents to deny certain treatment to their children which I think raises a different issue but, nevertheless, you do have the right to forego all treatment. If you have the right to forego all treatment, why could you not have the corollary right to choose the treatment that you prefer. I don't believe there is a cure for cancer. I don't believe that traditional methods cure it. There was a man who lived across the street from the barber shop where I worked and he had gone into the hospital for operations, chemotherapy and it looked like he was about