

March 26, 1979

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PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right. If you will read the newspaper this morning, you will see that they have come across what they call a new possible cure for cancer or cancer fighter. It comes from the blood of human beings. It allows the cancer to be recognized as a foreign substance and fought. There is one doctor who deals with Laetrile who indicated that cancer sometime escaped detection by the body because it is encased in a protein capsule and the body cannot recognize it for what it is. Laetrile and vitamins do something about this protective covering and allow the cancer to be attacked by mechanisms in the body itself so it seems that the traditional medical industry and the Laetrile pushers are coming together on some issues. I would like to see the bill discussed. Senator Venditte, do you understand that I am saying if this bill does not change I would vote to kill it? You understand that. All right.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I would like to ask about three questions. First of all, Senator Venditte.

PRESIDENT: Senator Venditte, will you respond?

SENATOR VENDITTE: Yes.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Venditte, the way your bill is currently written is that no patient could receive Laetrile without the doctor ordering it, is that correct?

SENATOR VENDITTE: That is correct, Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: That would be a medical decision only?

SENATOR VENDITTE: Only by the attending physician, that is correct.

SENATOR LEWIS: Secondly, Senator Venditte, how firmly wedded are you to making the doctors not liable in case of this particular prescription on his part?

SENATOR VENDITTE: Can you explain that some more?

SENATOR LEWIS: Well, that Section 7 says that they have no liability in case they administer this particular substance, is that an important part of the bill?