

May 7, 1979

LB 382

SENATOR MURPHY: I think you can file my request to speak along with that amendment, and thank you. I would appreciate it if you would hold it. So far, we've only killed this proposition once, and I figure it's due for about nine more, and I'd just as soon hold the amendment, but I do not care to speak at the moment on it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kennedy....speaking on the bill as a whole.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Yes, Mr. Speaker...

SPEAKER MARVEL: There are four minutes left on the bill. Go ahead.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Mr. Speaker, fellow members, I was not here the other day when you raised LB 382 from Committee. I think it's a very emotional bill. I don't think it should have come out of Committee, but that's a decision that was made and I was not here. I would like the privilege of saying I think we're bypassing the medical profession. I think we're doing something that many of us will have some dear ones involved with cancer in the future that will find that we have given them some high hopes that will not take care of the problem. I would like to state, my mother passed away from cancer when she was 34. I lost my father when he was 62 from blood cancer. As you all probably remember, my son had malignant cancer two and a half years ago and took his own life, and you perhaps know my wife has went through malignant cancer four rounds. Yes, I lost a brother-in-law. But I still respect the medical profession, and I think we ought to look at the facts when we are convincing people that they might take a drug that has not been accepted at all by the medical profession, the people that have spent years studying, and as many of you know, I spent the last two and a half years trying to get doctors to locate in the state of Nebraska. I think we ought to look at things on this floor, and not hurry, but take time and take investigation, and talk to your doctors, and respect the people that have spent many years in research, and respect the profession of the doctors that we are bringing into the state of Nebraska and are educating today. Emotional things should be not rushed through. I don't think a half an hour on the discussion of a bill as important as this is to the future and the life of many people...I do have sympathy for people. I have sympathy for people that can take drugs and have confidence that that drug is taking care of their problem, but I do not think that's going to solve our