

January 14, 1980

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of legislation I think really has very little bearing on our discussion here today. Senator Labeledz has said that there is no conclusive evidence that laetrile has been proven to be effective. Well, let me turn that around. There has not been one shred of evidence presented before the Public Health and Welfare Committee, which Senator Cullan chairs and which I serve on, there has not been one shred of scientific evidence that has shown that laetrile has been proven to be effective. As a matter of fact let's take some specific examples of where people who support laetrile have made erroneous claims that laetrile in fact has been proven to be effective and let's, for the discussion, mention the name of Chad Green, certainly something very emotional but it is one that needs to be dealt with just a bit. The doctor that treated Chad Green is a doctor by the name of Contrerras down in Mexico. Dr. Contrerras is generally recognized as a leading expert, and I use that term extremely loosely, leading expert in the area of laetrile. The FDA had asked Dr. Contrerras a number of years ago to document for them cases, the most notable cases, and I think this is probably one of the most important parts of the testimony that I want to present to you today, asked him to document cases, the most miraculous recovery cases of where people who had taken laetrile had been cured, and he documented twelve cases, and I have the exact number down in my office, I read it last year but I guess it bears repeating. Of the twelve cases over half of them died, a couple of them they couldn't find, and when it got down to the bottom line, there wasn't one person who had lived because of laetrile and yet here is the man who is supposed to be the leading authority on laetrile who the FDA asked to document twelve cases and they couldn't come up with one that after a period of time, over a short period of time, had still been living because of laetrile. Now that pretty clearly indicates to me that laetrile cannot be proven to be effective. When you ask the leading authority and he can't show one shred of evidence, one shred of proof where laetrile has helped, then I say put the shoe on the other foot. You show me where it has been effective. The Chad Green case, something certainly very tragic and one that hits home very close to many of us here because the Green's originally did live in Nebraska and I really don't wish to dwell upon the tragedy that happened to the Green's but let me just point this out. Based on what I have read on the subject, Chad Green did have a type of cancer which could have been arrested, did have the type of cancer which could have been cured, and by "cured", I am using the medical definition of "arrested for a period of at least five years". Instead

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