

January 14, 1980

LB 382

SENATOR VENDITTE: Well, Senator Hoagland, let me just simply say this in response to your question. If you can pinpoint to me in the decision the very essence of the question you are asking me, then, yes, Senator Venditte would be in violation of the judge's decision but I don't think you can do that, Senator Hoagland. If you can pinpoint to me in that seven to fourteen court decision the substance of your particular inquiry at this point in time, then I would say that your question certainly has no substance.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I have no further remarks, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, thank you. Senator Venditte, do you wish to be recognized on the motion to advance?

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I think it would only be fitting at this point in time to inform you of where I am coming from on this particular piece of legislation. I know over the past one year, two years, since I have attempted to introduce this bill you have heard the merits and the demerits of this piece of legislation. This afternoon, and I am speaking primarily to those of you people who are new with us, you freshmen Senators, you have heard nothing but the demerits. You have heard nothing but the demerits of laetrile. Let me just simply tell you why I came to the point where I am today regarding LB 382. Sometime two years ago a constituent of mine whom I had never seen nor whom I had never met came up to me and said I have something to discuss with you. She said it is about my nine year old daughter who was given six months to live. She had lost all of her hair. She had lost 55 pounds of weight, from 105 pounds down to 50 some pounds. She was out of school. Her health had deteriorated to the point to where her doctors were correct that she was going to die within six months. She said a friend of hers came up to her and said why not try this laetrile. Why not give it a try. She said she was crying every day of her life. She was up every night with her child praying and hoping there was something left and the only thing she could cling to, ladies and gentlemen, was laetrile. She knew nothing of the substance. So right away she got on a plane and headed for Mexico. Do you know, ladies and gentlemen, today her child is now I think twelve years old and she is here today in the balcony, and by the way, she has been, she has been on laetrile for the past several years. Her child is now well above 100 pounds. Her child is back in school on the gymnastics team. Her child has regained all of her loss of weight and, yes, ladies and gentlemen, since I have introduced this bill, I have had hundreds of