

January 14, 1989

LB 382

politically explosive, the cold word or words is/are "sudden infant death syndrome". I have dealt with a case similar to this where a doctor had falsified a death certificate, and because the mother would not accept what the doctor said about the way her child died, I obtained an exhumation of the body and an autopsy. Nothing that the doctor stated in his improper or inaccurate comments on the death certificate were correct so the cause of death was listed as sudden infant death. No determinable cause. Yet if there had not been the exhumation and the autopsy, that child supposedly would have been listed forever as having died of a fractured skull caused by heavy bed springs falling upon the child's body. I have opposed amendments that have been attempted on this floor to allow, it is called the Christian Science Amendment, so you know what I am talking about, parents to impose on their children the attitudes they themselves have with reference to medical treatment for various organic and other ailments. I have opposed that and I will oppose this bill. If an adult wants to handle snakes as a religious manifestation, fine. We are all going to die at some point anyway. If an adult wants to worship sticks and stones and for every ailment grind up stones and sticks into powder, mix it with water and drink it, fine. But whenever adults attempt to utilize children who are not their possessions like you possess things, quackish or cruel or brutal practices on that child, then it is the responsibility of the state to step in and protect that child. Cancer is a catchall word that describes a multiplicity of ailments. There are hundreds of different types of cancers. Even when conventional treatment is being administered, the cancer specialists don't know whether there will be a remission or not, and if there is, they cannot always tell why it occurred or how long it will last. The cases differ with the individuals involved. Nobody even knows for sure what causes it. If you don't know the origin, how are you adequately going to deal with the disease. Practically any treatment is hit and miss. So I think what the Legislature should consider if the current methods as they have been described by the prolaetrile people as burning, cutting and poisoning, if those are bad things, why add the fourth Dalton brother, an untried, untested, unproved method of treatment, when that can be used on children. This is one of the inconsistencies I see in the conduct and attitude of the people who call me the baby killer because I think women have the right to determine whether they will have an abortion.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up, Senator Chambers.

5952