

January 14, 1980

LB 382

else. They are talking about medical science. If you don't believe me, check District 12 of this State of Nebraska and see how many medical professionals are represented. In fact just a moment ago calls came in from my district. They were not asking me to support but one more time to reaffirm my opposition. That is why I am doing this. I am opposed. I hope the new members of this body will think very seriously before they push the green button. It will take a little courage to push the red button. Thank you.

**SPEAKER MARVEL:** Senator Fowler and then Senator Labeledz to close. Senator Fowler.

**SENATOR FOWLER:** I rise to support not advancing the bill. I agree with the statements that Senator Koch has made that if we advance this bill, and if we pass this bill, that we are setting ourselves up as medical experts and we lack that expertise. We are making a scientific judgment based on packed galleries and letters into our office rather than knowledge and information that has been gained through research. We will be asking our State Health Department and we will be asking our state tax dollars to be used to fund a State FDA to try and analyze these materials. Now I do not think that this Legislature should take such a precedent lightly. I do not think that we should intrude into an area which I think is obviously beyond our expertise. I would echo the point that Senator Koch made for new members of the Legislature, that you are not just voting on an isolated issue, that you are really setting a whole precedent as to what this Legislature should consider, types of topics it should be involved in, and whether we should set ourselves up as a judge as to the quality of drugs, the effectiveness of drugs. No matter what disclaimer we put in this bill, passage of this legislation is an endorsement of laetrile. The people of this state have the confidence that this Legislature is acting responsible and it does not seem to me a responsible action to pass something, say then, well, we really don't know if it doesn't work, and although we have allowed it to be sold, we don't have any confidence in it, but if you want to use it, that is okay. I don't think that is a responsible way for us to approach the health issues of this state. I think that we should only pass this bill if we have the knowledge and the certainty that this is an effective product, and if any of you do not have that certainty, then I do not think you should put your endorsement by passing this bill. I think Senator Koch is exactly right. This is beyond our capability. We should trust