

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, we are together then. I was...

SENATOR MARESH: This would require him to go out personally to do the examinations instead of being just a supervisor, that is the way I understand it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If the information we were given by the practicing pathologist who had testified before the committee of the number of suspicious deaths that occur, if that information is true, do you think that one individual could handle all of these cases by personally performing the autopsies and doing the follow-up work?

SENATOR MARESH: The patrol does a lot of that work now, we will still use them, won't we? We won't disregard their service, will we?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, the patrol doesn't perform autopsies.

SENATOR MARESH: No, but they go out and examine whenever there is a mysterious death, don't they go out with their lab and provide that service to help the local county attorney and the sheriff?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The only time the patrol comes in as a matter of fact is if they are invited. So if there is an interest in hurrying up and putting somebody in the ground, then the patrol does not even get involved. But what I am talking about is the medical end of it. How can the patrol handle the medical end of it?

SENATOR MARESH: I'm wondering how will these people play their part now without an invitation by the local authorities? They still have to be invited to investigate. They won't automatically go out to investigate a death....

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Maresh, what I am talking about is the knowledge that we are talking about making available in these cases. If you only have the state patrol, even if they are invited in, they don't have the medical knowledge or capabilities, so I am asking you, is it your intention to have one single individual, the medical examiner, the State Medical Examiner, do all of this medical...all of this forensic pathology himself or herself?

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, because I don't think that it is such a big...I don't....I mean there aren't that many mysterious deaths to warrant that kind of a cost. I think that if we are getting by without any state medical examiner this would be a step in the right direction, if it is that important, don't you think?