

March 11, 1980

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for the amendment. I haven't heard a simple argument in behalf of the participants. I haven't heard such an argument given by those who oppose the amendment. They are talking about convenience of other people, the ones who will watch and get wrought up if they see a young man having his face pounded to a pulp or knocked down time after time. If in boxing you see an exhibition of superb skill which is what the Marquis of Queensbury had in mind such as occurred between Sugar Ray Leonard and Benitez, then people call it a boring fight. The only cut that occurred was when they butted heads accidentally, but because one would parry, one would thrust, these are not terms in boxing but they will convey to most people the idea of what is involved, then it is considered dull but let two individuals stand toe to toe and punch each other or attempt to punch each other into oblivion, people then cheer. It brings out the worst in individuals. I watched a fight on television Sunday, I think it was, or one day on the weekend and the announcer said after this fight I am going to stand up and cheer for these two guys. I mean they battered each other from pillar to post for ten rounds and that is what people pay for when they go to see a fight and you will notice that people are not called boxers, they are called fighters. All is preparing for two additional fights, not boxing matches, and in a fight, your aim is to hurt your opponent as much as possible. I have boxed before and I know that if you don't keep your hands where they belong, then the other guy is supposed to hit you up side of the head or wherever else he can hit you as hard as he can. I never would want to do it for a living. It is one of the toughest ways to make a buck that is available and the problem is that the one who makes the buck doesn't get to keep it. If we are going to allow boxing, and I know that is going to be the thing in this state, I don't think that we ought to lessen the small amount of preliminary safety that is built into the system. Why should you say that it is not required to have a physician? Would the Legislature be willing to put into the law that should an undetected ailment flare up during a fight that the physician for whom this PA works will be personally liable and responsible to respond in damages for the injuries suffered by that fighter as a result of an undetected ailment? No, this is my time. No, he called me. I am just using your mike. So we had a little discussion here that almost led to an encounter but I have been informed I am using the chaplain's mike as a matter of fact. Made me lose my thought, Mr. Chairman, bear with me for an instant to regroup my faculties.

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