

of qualification for which a person is supposed to be suited, and he is not suited even in that area, then why impose on him an additional realm for which he had no training whatsoever? The problem exists because we have nonmedical people making medical type decisions. There are some jurisdictions where police officers pronounce individuals dead. So I think Senator Vickers' amendment will not do anything other than put us right back where we were before. The bill is needed in the same way that a medical doctor should perform a medical operation. A medical person should make a determination relative to the cause of death or the circumstances surrounding a death that may justify further investigation. A county attorney is not given that type of quality in knowledge just by virtue of winning an election. So, Senator Vickers, an elected official may have many duties imposed on him or her as a result of election, but I don't think we should try to say that gaining more votes than another person would impart medical knowledge and expertise. I am opposed to Senator Vickers' amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, Senator Wagner, do you wish to speak to the....

SENATOR WAGNER: To the Vickers amendment, yes.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker, our committee heard this bill and I think the one thing that came out to me is that very definitely the county attorneys would like some help like this and so I support the bill as it is and I would oppose Senator Vickers' amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Are we ready for the vote now on the Vickers amendment? Senator Vickers, do you want to close on your amendment?

SENATOR VICKERS: I think maybe I better, Mr. Speaker, since I am the only one in here that is for it. Once again, what I am attempting to do is not put the law back where it is now. We are creating a medical examiner's office. We are giving the county attorneys a tool that they don't have at the present time, and I am not saying, Senator Fowler, that the attorneys have any medical expertise. They don't. I agree with that. What I am saying is that the attorneys, the county attorney, the local official, should be able to determine which deaths need to be examined and which deaths don't, and then have the facility available,