

MEETING  
OF THE  
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
COMMERCE

162

Date: March 30, 1971

Members Present: Senator Close  
Senator Drakulich  
Senator Hecht  
Senator Swobe

Members Absent: Senator Lamb

Witnesses: Mrs. John Knoble, Ross-Burke & Knoble  
Clark Guild, Reno Attorney  
Orin Alexander, Pyramid Funeral Home  
Mr. McCaffery, Walton Funeral Home  
Mr. Belanger, Belanger Funeral Home

Chairman Close called the meeting to order at 3:46 P.M.

SB 361 - Provides that person may prior to death  
direct disposition of his remains and  
prohibits and regulates certain funeral  
practices.

Senator Swobe told the members of the committee the purpose of the bill. He said he was concerned with the wide range of prices charged, and secondly that individuals should be advised that they need not have a casket of more than nominal value to be placed in for cremation. He asked that discussion be centered around these two points in Sections 14 and 15.

Mrs. Knoble: Each casket in our rooms shows the price of our merchandise and to file a list with the State Board would seem almost like price fixing. A price list to a layman would not mean much, because you still can't see what you are getting. We break our prices down in three categories: Professional services; facilities and equipment; and the price of the casket.

Mr. McCaffery: I feel that price advertising is misleading. The price quoted in newspaper ads does not include the price of services, etc.

Mr. Balanger: The discussion seems to revolve around the price of a casket. Yet that is not the item that costs the most. If a person dies on a Saturday and the body must be held until Monday, it would have to be embalmed and those services run about \$350. What should be submitted is a list of our standard service charged.

Mr. Alexander: If someone came in and said they would like to have a direct burial or direct cremation, we have a set price for this very thing.

Following their testimony, the witnesses left the meeting.

Senator Swobe said he would draft amendments to the bill before the committee took any action.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M.