

March 25, 1974

SENATOR MARVEL: Now if you will turn in 1053 to line..to page 12, you will see up line 7 through 10 four sets of figures. Now what we did with the staff and the Department of Rehabilitation was to sit down and earmark these funds into basic priorities. Now this was somewhat of a painful process, but I'd like to talk about the priorities, because I think this is what we have been discussing. The priorities that go into this total figure that you see on page 12. Include no less than two million dollars for services to the severely physically handicapped. Included in the amount shown is a million dollars for case services, which amount shall not be expended for any other purpose. Priority number two, indicates that no less than \$475,000 in federal funds shall go to the mentally retarded. Priority three, has to do with \$780,000, treatment of the mentally ill, which includes money to the Psychiatric Institute, to the Regional Centers, and to the Community Mental Health Centers. Priority number 4 has to do with the rehabilitation of the Public Offender, priority number 5, any additional funds available may be expended at the discretion of the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, but the money basically is earmarked according to this four-page amendment. And this is what I think, what we are attempting to do. And I move the adoption of this committee amendment to Legislative Bill 1053.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: I wonder if Senator Marvel would yield to a question. Having been on a couple of the meetings of the Vocational Rehabilitation group and your staff, I have to admit that all is not rosey, and I don't want to be one of the thorns in that bush. So maybe you will have some explanations. There is two questions that was written by the Assistant Commission Gary Cartwright, to me. He wrote a bunch of comments. I don't know if you received those or not. I made sure that Bill got ahold of some. I'd like to have you answer the question on page 5 that he's got. Where it says it's imperative.

SENATOR MARVEL: Are you referring to the amendment, or are you referring to his discussion?

SENATOR BARNETT: Well, I would say it might have to do with your amendment. Bill is that right on page 5 of the white copy? What I'm getting at is, Senator Marvel. I wish you would explain. They say there is going to be a million point one short. Not in the federal fund area. They're going to be short services to the physically handicapped. They do not have the money to do this. And I'm sure that this is not the intent of the Legislature. And I'm sorry I have to bring it up. But I think it's a point that should be discussed. It says, it's imperative that this Legislative body be advised that LB1053 which would require the reduction of service levels to all other handicapped (physical) approximately one point one million, below current year budgeting. Because they lose their third party agreement. This has been the big argument. This has been the big discussion. This has been something that we've had. And I think I need assurance. They actually are trying to be honest. And I think that they have tried to point out that they are losing money in the physically handicapped part where they will not be able to give the services