

February 12, 1976

My question specifically ... Senator Lewis mentioned how many youngsters were going, and I didn't catch that, Senator Lewis. How many youngsters, handicapped youngsters, are now being helped by private institutions?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I certainly don't have that figure because, unless they are receiving state funds, we wouldn't know that.

SENATOR DWORAK: Didn't you say 400, Senator Lewis, or approximately 400?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Yes, I was going to get to that, Senator Dworak. Sometimes we jump a little quick. We wouldn't know the total number. We do know that, as the program was just underway in the initial five or six months, over 400 children were involved that were entitled to state reimbursement. I would suggest to you there are probably thousands of....

SENATOR DWORAK: Are these programs, these 400 youngsters or if 1,000, not available any place else? Are these parents selecting these private insitutions out of preference?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Let me say that I'd have to divide that question. For instance, let's take Garnett Green School. They are involved in some very technical training in motor skills.

SENATOR DWORAK: How many youngsters, in this particular area, would be involved in these very technical motor skills that would not be available under any other public program?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Let me use my school district in Bellevue. As I recall, there are 12,000 students there which is about the same number of students you would have if you cut off the panhandle, or the same number of students you would have if you had the tri-city area lumped together.

SENATOR DWORAK: I'm talking....

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Now let me finish my point, if you will, to answer your question. We have two students, that fall into that category, out of 12,000. So then we take them to ... we did take them to Garnett Green. So it's a low incident rate.

SENATOR DWORAK: There are very few students, then statewide, that probably are using these private insitutions because simply these programs are not available under public institutions? Is that correct?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Again I said, most of those are the high ... the low incident rate kinds of thing make it very difficult in order to have that kind of program. Certainly, it's more of a disadvantage, I think, to the Western part of the state and to the small communities then it is to my community.

SENATOR DWORAK: Well I think my point is ... and I'm not totally sure in my grounds on this from a numbers point of view. I think that we are talking, basically, about a very, very low incident of pupil going to these private institu-