

January 22, 1979

and their only opportunity is to listen and I don't know to what extent we would enlarge on that because of the seventy-two hours they broadcast and the questioning that we had from those who were supporting this, it is primarily all educationally informational and they do not get into the business of, what's the word I want to use, entertainment because those people can receive this from other kinds of radios and from television if that is their choice.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Koch, let me restate the question. In response to Senator Keyes' question as to whether there would be additional fiscal impact with the physically handicapped added, it appears that the programs for these individuals would not be the same as those that we are attempting to add here for the visually impaired. Is that correct? They would not be the same programs for both categories or classifications? Well then my next question....

SENATOR KOCH: As I understand it, Senator Stoney, excuse me for interrupting, but it is the same program. They are not going to develop a new programming technique too because we have added physically handicapped.

SENATOR STONEY: All right. That is helpful because I thought if there would be two individual separate programs then there would be additional fiscal impact. One other question, I note in the language it says that the Department of Public Institutions may contract for additional services for the blind to include but not be limited to radio programs which provide reading services for the blind. Now what would you envision, Senator Koch, some of these other items might be in addition to the specific radio programs that they refer to in this bill?

SENATOR KOCH: Well right off hand, Senator Stoney, I can't answer your question of what other kinds of programs I would envision that they may contract because these two stations, the only services they offer presently are exactly what I have stated to you. It is primarily a service where volunteers read on this radio and the people who are visually handicapped and those who have certain physical handicaps who have these receivers--first of all you have got to get a receiver. That receiver comes and its cost is \$59.00 but you never own it. You fill out an application for it and you must qualify to have this opportunity to have this receiver in your home. So there again, to some degree I think that is a limiting factor as to how many of these receivers would be placed with certain kinds of people. In other words, they have to prove eligibility before they are going