

April 5, 1979

LB 101

of disabilities and I think it is not proper to say that one commission could deal with all of the problems that people with these various disabilities would have. It is not a good proposition. It is not a fair proposal and I am opposed to things like that. Senator Newell, being the highly political person that he is, would never for a moment go for the idea of making everybody belong to one political party. They all are interested in politics. They all are interested in getting political office. They all are interested in the advantages for their particular group, yet you can have as many political parties as you choose and nobody has ever suggested in this country that you should have only one party but when we come to those again who have nobody to speak for them, nobody is in this Legislature who is blind. Nobody is in this Legislature who is deaf so those people who face that disability are placed in the category of them or they or those people. I am certain that if this were an assembly of all blind people there would be a different attitude toward blindness. If it was an assembly of all deaf people there would be a different attitude toward deafness. So I think the mark of our humanity, the measure of our humanity is how much of somebody else's pain...

SENATOR NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...we can feel without having that pain ourselves and I think when we are elected to the Legislature, even if we are not that kind of a person when we first come here, we should try to broaden our horizon and deepen our sensitivities because our job is to legislate in the best interest of everybody who may have problems that can be addressed by legislation. I am in favor of 101 as it is and I hope that there will be no attempt, even when we vocalize it, to lump all the people with disabilities or handicaps into one basket. It cannot be done unless you are going to do it by brute and I emphasize, brute force.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator..., excuse me. The Clerk tells me we have a motion on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Newell moves to amend: "Strike the name and add the name "Commission on the Physically Disabled."

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Newell.