

April 9, 1979

LB 589

Society is essentially a continuation budget. The number of minor items that were added or deleted which I could go into some depth. Natural Resource Commission is a major one that many members are probably are interested in. The Natural Resource Commission is where the conservation fund and the resource development fund occur. What the committee is recommending, the agency requested a half a million dollars for the conservation fund and they had a request, as I recall, for four and a half million for the resource development fund. There was also legislation introduced, as you know, for dedicating a portion of the cigarette tax. What the committee is recommending is a one million dollar increase this year over and above the million and a half they currently are receiving, an additional one million a year from now and an additional million two years from now, which at that time would be four and a half million increase. But the committee also recommended that these additional funds be allocated 25% to the water conservation fund, 25% to the resource development fund and the other 50% to be allocated at the discretion of the NRC, the Natural Resource Commission, as to which fund the money was used. Under what is proposed by the committee, the funding will be provided for all of the projects which are currently obligated to the extent of about twelve million dollars. There will be sufficient funds appropriated to meet the completion of all the projects which have partial obligation at this time. The Crime Victim's Reparation Board was legislation enacted last session. It is merely a staffing pattern. Last year the staffing was for six months. This reflects a full year of staffing. There was no request at this point at least for any funds for reparations to individuals although there is a possibility that they may subsequently come in with some minor amount, probably less than \$20,000 for the current year but we have had no official request to date. The State Patrol is continuation funding. We continue the practice of replacing roughly a third of their automobiles as is done each year. This amounts to 180 cars for the coming year. The Department of Administrative Services is essentially a continuation budget. The increases that are indicated primarily are from cash funds but these are cash funds from the collection of rent from a number of agencies, also for the sale of items that are sold here in the Capitol. There is a major change which you will note in the revolving fund of some seven million dollars. This represents a change that came about last December, was finalized last December, where the Department of Administrative Services took over the cost and the operation of the collection for telephone bills. Prior to that time it was done by Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph but they no longer wish to continue it. This

3140