

March 6, 1980

LB 789

on Final Reading and priorities set. Now we could not in the Appropriations Committee fund this bill because legally there would be no need for the money. The statute must be changed before additional funds are needed. In the Appropriations Committee we are not in the habit of putting money in a budget that is not needed. Therefore, it is up to the Health and Welfare Committee as a statutory committee to decide the level of support, and if they decide to change it, then an A bill is introduced and that must fund the change. We can not in the appropriations bill fund something that is not required. For that reason we did not put any money in the budget to fund this bill because we didn't know if it would pass or not. What we did do in discussions looking at this legislation and other legislation realized that more money must be made available for floor action, and in the last week of the appropriations decisions if you looked at newspaper stories or visited with members of the committee, what originally started as \$2.7 million for the floor was increased to \$6 million for floor action, was increased to \$8.5 million for floor action. One of the reasons that amount was increased was this bill. The Appropriations Committee, we talked about it. We were aware it had a large fiscal impact and we made allowance for the fact that the floor may wish to pass that bill. We could not have put the money in the appropriations bill, however. We only can fund what is already required. So in kind of an explanation, I think the Appropriations Committee did consider this bill in its deliberations and we have allowed funds to fund this proposal. I think the decision of priorities can be made then on Final Reading after the appropriations bills are passed. So I would urge this body to advance this bill and the A bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers, and now I have Senator Vickers and Senator Landis and then we are going to have to adjourn.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and fellow members, I would like to ask Senator Goodrich a question if I may.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes.

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Goodrich, on page 3 of 789, line 5, where you have stricken the language that says "child" over the number of one and then inserted "additional eligible person", could you tell the body exactly what that means?