

SENATOR JOHNSON: Now in looking at page 52 of the budget book and referring again to Section 31 of 998, it looks like we are going to add \$328,000 to the State Highway Patrol budget for a new pay classification plan for the highway patrolmen. Could you explain what we are doing with that?

SENATOR WARNER: That was in the agency request and it was also included in the Governor's recommendation to the Legislature. It does establish a second trooper position, Trooper II, net effect of that classification is kind of across the board 5% increase except for, and I forgot the number now, a few number troopers who are...have been there for a fairly short period of time, I think one or two years. This would be in addition to any salary adjustment that is included in the overall state employee benefit wage plan.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Does that mean then simply, Senator Warner, that the Highway Patrol will have a special wage package? Are they getting more of a pay increase than any other state employees are receiving?

SENATOR WARNER: In a sense that is true, Senator Johnson, but it is also true that there is a variety of, included in the deficiency bill as well as.....in the appropriation bill there would be a variety of reclassifications of positions or where a new classification was established this actually I guess is a new classification established by the Department of Personnel within the patrol. It would not be unlike what was done in the Department of Banking where the position of the bank examiners was reclassified, recognizing what competitive positions outside of the agency paid, so it is somewhat similar to that same. . . .

SENATOR JOHNSON: Now turning to page 43 of the budget book which reflects Section 11 of the LB 998, there is an appropriation for mental retardation improvement and we are appropriating about \$2,303,000 and I assume that that is basically a new appropriation, Senator Warner, to be used, to a large extent for community based mental retardation but in the event it is not so used, to be used for improvement in Beatrice. Could you explain for me that appropriation?

SENATOR WARNER: The. . .included in that item three which is included in this bill, that you are looking at in this pink book, four, five and six are in the A bill. What this reflects is two things. Part of it is the same that the Governor recommends, the committee is recommending similar amounts but the one million dollars of that 2.3 million is for the movement of clients from the Beatrice Development Center to community