

April 14, 1980

LB 993

interest in this amendment and vote the equity that is due Joe Soukup. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kahle. Senator Kahle, go ahead.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, it is hard to get up and oppose Senator Kelly in this amendment that he has brought forth because I know that he has a lot of compassion but Senator Kelly is making many assumptions as to what really happened to Joe Soukup. I don't think any of us really know, and as a member of the Business and Labor Committee, first of all, we always look at the Claims Board to see how they handled it and the Claims Board decided not to handle it or they said, no. Senator Kelly has said a precedent would be set and we are afraid of that. I am. I think that there are thousands of people out there that have been in one or another of our institutions over the years that could say they have been mistreated or misdiagnosed or have been given the wrong medical care. Even my doctor makes mistakes and he says he practices so I know he has his problems. I would hate to see the people that were in our institutions, our staff people twenty years ago, be held responsible for some of the things we do today in those same institutions. So I think we are setting a precedent. I am not sure how the Hall County court system or the Hall County Board of Supervisors or whoever is going to handle this funding would handle it. I think it would go through the same agencies that are already available to Joe Soukup, through the Welfare Department, through the special agencies for health and they have a lot of them in Hall County, some of the best in the state. So I think if Joe Soukup wanted to get an education and wanted to get medical treatment he would have no problem at all getting it right now through the agencies that we already have in operation. So I feel that we should not set this precedent and should not say that we are responsible for what has happened twenty, thirty years ago in our institutions. I don't think we can be responsible for what we are doing right now because no one knows the answer to some of the problems that they have. I know that Joe came from a home that wasn't the best and I know that he has had his problems but we do have agencies and people that can work with this sort of situation and we did ask in the Business and Labor Committee to have Joe evaluated and he did not finish that endeavor. He went one week and then stayed home the next. So I suppose somebody will say he should have been forced to go and should have finished the evaluation so that we'd know exactly what Joe is capable of doing but I

10100