

February 10, 1981

LB 336

I was the individual at that particular point in time that asked that the body add this sunset provision to this particular proposal. It was my understanding at that time that the individuals that were interested in this program would attempt to receive the funding necessary to continue this very viable and needed program the private sector and I would like to ask Senator Koch at this time if he would respond if this issue was addressed at the time LB 336 was presented before the Education Committee?

SENATOR KOCH: It was, Senator Stoney. However, with the escalating cost of inflation, even though they were able to attract some additional support, they still are not able to meet the budget to provide the services they normally do.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Koch, it is my understanding that there is no additional appropriation or increase, rather, than what was asked for and appropriated in 1979, is that correct?

SENATOR KOCH: That is correct.

SENATOR STONEY: Would you have any objection, because I think we should as a legislative body, provide some oversight on these particular programs that do require appropriations if as in 1979 a sunset provision were established in LB 336 for December 31, 1983?

SENATOR KOCH: I have no objection to that, Senator Stoney. I think it is proper.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Koch, I thank you for that and I will be placing on the Clerk's desk an amendment to place the sunset provision on this particular bill for December 31, 1983. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on LB 336? Senator Koch, you may close.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, I will be very brief. Most of you are familiar with the program and we provide dollars for other kinds of services. I think this is a reasonable service, and a reasonable dollar, and I concur with Senator Stoney, we will provide that sunset provision in '83. The body can review it again, and if at that time they become totally independent, I am certain we will be aware of that through the hearings or we can continue to provide some funding through the visually impaired under the Department of Institutions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: We will wait. He is getting the amendment right now.