

March 27, 1981

LB 478

Social Security Administration Guidelines. Now I think many of the same reasons apply for granting homeowners who have total mental disabilities the exemption as apply to the homeowners who have the various kinds of physical disabilities currently laid out in the section. We have talked about this issue this session and last session and I think it is appropriate to extend this exemption to the mentally disabled as well as the physically disabled. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion before the House is the Hoagland amendment. Senator Pirsch, do you wish to speak to the Hoagland amendment?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes. Senator Hoagland, I don't really... I am not really opposed to this amendment but I do feel that it does change and is a different concept in the physical disabilities that we have presently in the law and perhaps should have a hearing also.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: A question of Senator Pirsch. Senator Pirsch, does ability to pay have come into play in any place in your bill?

SENATOR PIRSCH: The ability to pay is not covered in that exemption.

SENATOR DWORAK: Thank you.

SENATOR PIRSCH: It only includes the first \$35,000 of a homestead.

SENATOR DWORAK: But they could have as much money as anybody in the world and that would not disqualify them?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well this section also applies to our disabled veterans as well as different classification of other people and those financial provisions are not allowed or are not presently given...(interruption.)

SENATOR DWORAK: I understand that and I am very strongly opposed to that and have publicly voted against that. I think that if we are going to subsidize or help people that need help, then we should do it directly like we are doing and in the area of mental retardation and disability payments and things like that but to come through the back door approach on the homestead exemption, I think it is a mistake. We keep eroding. We keep eroding. We keep trying to solve social problems through exemption of taxes