

April 28, 1981

LB 404

at an interim study anyway on mental health, mental retardation and alcoholism service programs by our regional structure and so we thought we would incorporate then after hopefully this bill was passed the aging regional structure and combine them all and look at how the regions were functioning and how oversight was provided and it is quite possible that next year the committee may come in with a recommendation in this area but it just was felt that this session was not the right time, that this bill should be used as a vehicle to set up the proper structure to have a system in the state for aging services which we really do not have now. It is totally a federal-local system. The state has played a very minor role at this point and needs to have a more defined role and I hope that answers your question but that is kind of the basis of our decision, not to do that with this bill this year.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, members, the more we talk about this I guess the more confused I get as to what is really happening and I am concerned of course about the handout that Senator Fowler handed out that evidently has the sanction of the county officials. But it looks to me like we are again perhaps not mandating a program but pushing a program on to the communities and asking the counties to pick up a much larger proportion of the funding without the state binding themselves to a great lot more and I don't know if this is correct or not. Senator Wesely, would you want to comment on that?

SENATOR WESELY: Well actually that is not the case. We are trying to set up a mechanism where the state can come in and provide some assistance that presently we do not provide at all. I mean we have \$400,000 out of 9 million dollars that we are spending on aging services and so this is a mechanism that the locals will have to pick up some more but we anticipate the state will have to pick up some more. The whole question is the federal role and we anticipate the federal role to diminish of course and to play less of a support position and so as a result the locals will have to pick up a little more but so will the state in time, not through this bill as it is. If the A bill is passed in addition to the legislation that we are now talking about then the state would start to play a role but we are just setting up the mechanism for us to help out a bit.

SENATOR KAHLE: But aren't you saying that if the state puts in more money, the counties have to put in the 25%?

SENATOR WESELY: Well even if the state did not put in the