

April 28, 1981

LR 404

the law. We will try to carry these out. The Legislature will try to carry out its goals. I think the attitude of the senior citizens has a lot to do with their well-being. If they are happy they will live longer and they will be able to live in their own homes and they will be able to get these services that are provided at home such as a handy man to repair their, put on their storm windows, repair broken latches and things like that, mow their lawn and any handy man service that needs to be done. Meals on wheels is a very important thing for those to be able to stay in their own homes. I don't think we want to take these people from their homes to a nursing home and drain them from their resources and eventually have them on welfare. I think we can keep them in their homes by providing these necessary services. Home health nurse is a service that I have been interested in for many years for a nurse to come to the home, take blood pressure and make sure that...in other words to practice preventive medicine, to keep these people from getting sick, to catch an illness that is coming and not allow it to get worse and a handibus is real important to these people. I have an aunt that is coming 89 years old and she is able to be on her own in her own home because she has a Handi-Bus come to her door and take her shopping and get her groceries and keep her to being on her own in her own home. I think another service that we need to look at is phone reassurance where there are people that call these senior citizens to check up on them, that they haven't fallen and that they are okay, that they are not down on the floor or something like that. So I think there are a lot of services that could be provided if we only had the means to do it and I think this is the means to establish goals and work towards those goals to be accomplished. So I hope that we can get this bill advanced to E & R and eventually passed. I know it may cost some money but so does welfare when you get these people in the nursing homes and get them drained from their resources. I think this is something we should work to keep them in their own homes so they won't lose their last...their life savings and be eventually on welfare. I hope that we can advance this bill to E & R and eventually pass it. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I listened very closely to the explanation of the committee amendments by Senator Fowler and Senator Wesely and I listened very closely to the explanation of the bill by Senator Fowler and, quite frankly, I really don't know where we are. I have heard positions now that this was going to increase local input but lower local costs. I don't know whether we are increasing that local match which is eventually property tax or