

May 18, 1981

LB 561

retarded. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to the override and I do that knowing full well what I am picking on, motherhood, but I do it and I want to explain why I am doing it. I do it not to attack or to decrease the personnel, the personal services or the service money to be given for the delivery of services. I do it because of the fact that I happen to be able to identify one lawsuit, for example, that has been settled out of court, another one that has been filed and currently pending, \$210,000. I can identify seven other lawsuits for a total of nine that give rise to very questionable personnel practices of the headquarters offices of both ENCORE and ENHSA. What they are doing is they are settling these lawsuits out of court so that they don't get any publicity on them. They are just literally taking money from the delivery of services section and settling these things out of court to keep the publicity down so as not to reveal the lousy personnel practices. I also know of some very questionable purchasing procedures that they have up there, one of which is they bought a cow. Another one is they bought a pig and they cannot to this day account for where the cow and the pig went. During the course of the summer months when these things started coming to my attention, I started questioning the office up there and you run across a stonewall. They won't give you any information. They won't tell you a darn thing. They just stall you off. The only way I can see for us to get them to listen and to tell us what is going on, is a combination of two things. Number one, get their attention, let's not override this veto. We are increasing their general fund appropriation by \$3 million anyhow this year, for the coming year. This amount of money is not going to be a big factor to them but I will tell you one thing it will do. It will get their attention. The next thing I am going to be requesting, for example, and not here on this motion here, but I am going to make very sure that we get a state audit of at least Region VI's operation. I don't care about the rest of it. That is for other Senators to pay attention to and other Senators to watch over. But when we have questionable practices, extremely questionable personnel practices to the extent that they are literally wasting money, they are misappropriating money, and I say let's get their attention and then maybe we can work with them. Maybe they will work with us to get that mess straightened out, and I was talking specifically of Region VI, not the other regions. So for that reason I am opposing the veto override. I don't do it for the sake of cutting services.