

March 23, 1982

LB 942

insurance that you have to withhold? You don't get paid for that but we don't dare quit paying businesses and giving them that extra 3% profit which actually amounts to eight or maybe nine by the time they invest it in the banks for thirty to sixty days. So I think it is time you realize this is penny ante penny pinching taking away 3¢ a mile from a handicapped person when you have got \$10 million sitting out there that there isn't a businessman who will suffer if you take it away from them. It just takes some guts to do it, and so far I haven't found 25 people yet that will agree with me. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Vickers, to close.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Chairman and members, it might be penny ante to some people but I think to the people that are having to provide the transportation for a handicapped child I doubt if it is too penny ante to them. I doubt that they look at it in that respect, if we pick on them as a way to raise more funds for the state. Now Senator Higgins may be right but I suggest that you do that, try that also and see if you get the 25 votes out here. Senator Kahle mentioned that he thought we could make money at 18¢ or that we were making money at 21¢ and that maybe we shouldn't be doing that. If Senator Kahle really believes that, then I would expect an amendment forthcoming from him someplace in time in this debate in the next couple, three days that would cause that to happen so that we all suffer that same loss of what we are so-called making now. The point is if the parents of the handicapped children are only going to be paid 18¢ a mile, then I certainly agree with Senator Kahle. I think that I should only get paid 18¢ a mile driving back and forth also. Since I don't get paid anything right now, it would be quite an increase I guess. All state employees would be paid 18¢ a mile. Senator Wagner's bill of a year ago would simply be lowered back to 18¢. On the other hand if we don't want to do that, we want to pick on those few people that can fight back the least, now I don't happen to have any handicapped children. Thank God. But I don't think that this state should make a practice of picking on those people that do and I suggest to you that is exactly what we are doing. Now Senator Higgins may be right, maybe we don't have the intestinal fortitude or just plain old guts to pick on the big people in this state so we are going to pick on those little ones instead. Well, if that is the attitude that we are going to have as being bullies, count me out. Senator Warner also indicated that reductions in the amounts that the Appropriations Committee has worked very hard on and struggled very much on, and I assure you that I agree that that undoubtedly is true, and that we are making inroads in that, and I will surely admit that is