

April 16, 1982

LB 761

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Members of the body and Mr. President, I, too, encourage you to override the veto. In Region 5 they have taken a tremendous cut already. They have taken 28 off their staff. They have terminated all of their speech therapists except one. They are serving 46 new people. They cut \$246,000 already off of their funding and we want to cut some more. We have over 129 persons that need services and we are not able to serve them. They are going to try even within the budget that they are in, they are going to try to serve 40. They had to terminate one and send them back to Beatrice and you know that costs a lot more money than it does here in the regional program. We need to serve these people. I visited with one individual from Adams County about a month ago and she just begged me to allow her son to get in this program. If we don't support the override and give Region 4 more money, there will be no chance for her for services for that family. I think this is ridiculous. We have got to serve these people. I really urge you to override the veto.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I think it is hard to follow Senator Sieck because I think he expressed very eloquently and sincerely what we are dealing with here. The vetoes I guess came as somewhat of a surprise when you consider that the budget was matched to the last recommended appropriation level that the Governor proposed and that in the sorts of revenue sheets that Senator Warner has handed out that there is still provision for a 3 percent reserve even before the veto. Now, basically the amount of the vetoes and the amount of the fee bill are roughly the same, 928, but leaving that aside, it seems that the goal of the vetoes is simply to provide an extra cushion, a little slack, a little more money in the treasury. It seems unfortunate that the group that we are talking that receive services are going to have to see services cut back further, and let me tell you that this is already a very tight budget with the level that it is. The Appropriations Committee has tried over the past few years to improve the level of services in certain regions across the state. We have recognized that some programs may have grown quicker, had more resources provided and we try to provide some extra growth. We do not simply take a flat formula and say everybody gets 6 percent or 7 percent or whatever. The two regions that are being discussed are areas of the state that the Appropriations