

February 6, 1991 LB 113

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. I will now recognize Senator Lynch, followed by Senator Dierks. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members and my good friend, Jim, I would agree that this is okay. Just so you understand, I have some concerns since I'm one of those people that have a temporary handicapped "jobbie" you stick over your rear view mirror when you have the person who is handicapped in the car with you. My only concern with this, Senator Cudaback and others, is that, in my circumstance, if I had a license plate that had a handicapped indication on it, I could, in fact, use it and no one would know the difference. I want to tell you a couple of interesting things. There are people who have the DAV special license. By the way, I'm a DAV, for what it's worth, and they have assumed that since they're a disabled veteran they have the right to use the handicapped parking and that's not true, they shouldn't use it and they ought to be ashamed of themselves for using it. If they can walk, if they don't have any arms, whatever the case might be, as long as they can walk and maneuver they should not use a handicapped sticker. The other day I had a neighbor lady who stopped by someone with a handicapped driver's license, and his wife got out of the car and she ran into Westroads because her husband needed a parking place, he's in a wheelchair in a handicapped equipped van, had no place to park. She walked over to take a look. He was, in fact, disabled. He had only one leg, but his wife had two good ones. And even though he had a handicapped plate, he shouldn't have used that handicapped parking. That was wrong. When she said to him, you should move, he pulled a gun and said, don't give me any trouble, I'm a disabled veteran. He's wrong. So I'm only concerned that...in fact, to be completely frank, I've seen people stop at the Westroads in jogging clothes with handicapped stickers, go in and work out, if you can believe that. Now maybe they were driving their husband's or somebody's car. That's wrong. So my only concern with this is not that people should have the right to have some way to identify their need and have access to disabled parking but, in fact, we should make sure that those that have it are entitled to it and use it properly. I stopped by a...and I will close with this, stopped by a brand new big store on South 72nd Street that's a printing shop of some kind, I forget it. They had for...I bought two so I could have in case I ever needed it, a handicapped sticker that you could put a chain on and hang over your rear view mirror, and unless you looked closely, you couldn't tell the