

political party in the French Senate and he is accompanied by Mr. Peter Bluds, a U.S. interpreter. Thank you very much for being with us today. Welcome to the Legislature. Also, seated under the north balcony, Senator Beutler would like to recognize Dr. Veskrna of Lincoln Medical Education Foundation who is serving as doctor of the day. Thank you very much for being with us. Mr. Clerk, amendments on the desk.

CLERK: Madam President, I do. The first amendment to the committee amendments is offered by Senator Dierks. It is found on page 1321 of the Journal. (See AM3422.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Madam President and members of the body, I'm bringing an amendment today to this bill that costs no money. It just puts some intent language in the bill and we're talking about the voc rehab program over in the cafeteria today. Specifically the amendment provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that the Statehouse Cafeteria Vocational Rehabilitation Program continue to operate through the year 1992-93, FY'92-93. Most of you know this program has operated without cost to the General Fund for many years. During that time the federal government has matched the cash register income generated by the cafeteria at, roughly, a three to one rate. Beginning in October the federal government will no longer match that income and will only match actual state appropriations. The Appropriations Committee has already voted to include these funds in the bill, a decision that I'm very happy for and I commend them for that, but the Department of Education has stated that it will not use the funds for the cafeteria program unless we include this intent language. I think this abandonment of this program would be unwise and unfair because, you know, it has served as a cash cow for voc rehab for many years generating funds to support not only itself, but other programs as well. Yet now the matching funds criteria changing this program is in need of some assistance, the department wants to terminate it. I think this program provides a real necessary service while building self-sufficiency and self-esteem for its clients and I also appreciate the opportunity to watch this program grow and develop myself personally while I'm in that cafeteria and watching some of these young people work. I wish we had a chance to observe and evaluate more of our state voc rehab services. I'd just at this point like to ask you to support this amendment. It doesn't add money to the bill, it