

March 25, 1996

LB 1059
LR 208

effect, probably they were directors of group homes and so forth. But I can't believe they're only protecting their own turf because I met with them and I toured those homes, I toured four in my own district and I met with the directors and I watched the clients, I watched them at work. And I think that the directors of those homes are sincerely...they sincerely care for those clients. And I think that in answer to that, naturally the mentally ill couldn't write and tell me about this bill, for heaven's sake, they didn't even know it existed. The directors are the ones that take care of these group homes. I don't know how they could even consider calling me or writing me because they don't even know about it. They'll know about it someday when, when the budget's cut back and I think this bill actually sets mentally ill and development disabilities and aging a century...it sets it back a century or two because that's the lowest of our priorities it seems. And those community-based services are going to get cut with \$20 million, the \$30 million in shift. It's not going to be those community-based services. They'll be axed and we'll finally, we'll go back to the regional centers. And I oppose the committee amendments and I oppose the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to briefly support the amendment which we're...I know we're talking about. I want to...I will indicate to the body I have an amendment filed on the mainline bill to extend the date till July 1 of 1999, which may allay some of your concerns about going at this too fast. I'm interested in doing that because it gets us into the biennial budget. But I want to call your attention to the handout that Senator Wesely reported, it's a report on LR 208 concerning human, health and human services, talking about decline in funding. And I don't really want to castigate anybody and that's not my intent, but if you look at the, it's about...it says 44 and 45, so it's about midway through that. You look at the county funding versus the state funding...44 and 45, for human services. And the...page 44, it starts with '90-91 Fiscal Year budget, page 45 ends with '93-94 budget. And if you'll look at that under General, the state support in this area has gone from 80 million, almost 81 million, \$80,931,000, where the county level was \$9,236,000. Four years later in the