

January 7, 1976

justification is that we feel the state should not be drawing away so many resources from these children so that when they leave they are basically left as poverty cases and we wanted to provide. We felt \$5000 would probably be enough money that they could get a start towards a college education or training in a technical school or something like that so they could take care of themselves. Does that...

SENATOR DICKINSON: No, that is not enough. May I continue questioning, Senator Burbach.

SPEAKER: Turn on Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Senator Fowler has said, we are talking about children. Please define children, Senator Fowler. In the same statement you said so that they would have enough money so that the child could come out of the institution and buy an automobile and rent an apartment. I have a little question here, I guess. Define children for me.

SENATOR FOWLER: Senator Barnett might be more familiar with the institution but there are all ages in the institution. However, they will leave like at age 17 or 18. The state will no longer be responsible for them. At that time, the Committee felt that they should have enough personal assets that they would be able to make it on their own. They enter the institution at various ages.

SENATOR DICKINSON: For instance, how young do they enter?

SENATOR FOWLER: 5, 6, 7 or they can be 10, 12.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Could there not be some that are quite young when they leave the institution, also. We are talking about adults when they leave at 18 and that seems to be what you are referring to. Maybe that is all that leaves, I don't know. How about the twelve, thirteen, fourteen and fifteen year olds?

SENATOR FOWLER: They would go under sponsor homes.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Do any of them leave and go home to parents or to someone else who is responsible?

SENATOR FOWLER: Senator Kelly would like to...

SPEAKER: Have you completed your dialogue there, you two Senators.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, colleagues, I want to make just two comments. One is that if the child is released from an institution to its parents or a legal guardian, those parents are responsible or that legal guardian is responsible. If