

February 7, 1973

(Start Belt # 4)

this is what Richard Maresh wrote, not Shirley Marsh.

SENATOR KEYES: All right, I would like to ask Senator Maresh --

SPEAKER: Senator Maresh, will you yield?

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: How come you have this in the --

SENATOR MARESH: Well I, that was part of the testimony, a veteran from Vietnam testified before the committee and that was one of his, that was one of the objections to the bill that, he was for the bill but he was against that there was no provision for the disabled veterans to have access to public accommodations. Does that answer your question?

SENATOR KEYES: Well I, in the bill I don't see any relationship to it and yet in this, I see it is a committee report, that it is there, and I was just wondering why it was there and if we were going to make it absolutely mandatory that everybody does provide in the various places of business access by wheelchair which sometimes would work quite a hardship for the amount of business that they would do but I still say that everybody in a wheelchair should have accommodations, maybe not every place offering the same accommodations but they should be acceptable to them.

SENATOR MARESH: Senator Keyes, that was not part of the bill. This was brought up as part of the testimony and there was very little testimony so I entered this part into the report from the committee because he felt that if the bill should be brought out on the floor, it should be amended to include disabled veterans, that they should have access to all public accommodations.

SPEAKER: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I mostly want to concur in what Mr. Kelly has already said but the seat (?) in the committee was discussed and was taken, everything into consideration. We felt the bill was rather ambiguous. It was brought to us by a commission chairman who, the results of the bill would obviously be to enlarge this small bureaucracy of government. There is nothing in the bill to prevent harassment. It appears to me in many of the things we talk about that, about rights and privileges, you don't grab rights and privileges out of the air. When I obtain a right to do something, I obviously take away someone else's right not to do something and this raises a lot of questions and there is no recourse to operators of business and I could go into great details citing some harassing incidents. There was no recourse for the operator of business to harassment procedures by the people and I, a bill that would cover so few injustices doesn't seem justified and I think that was basically our opinion. We need to do some of these things by education rather than legislation. You simply cannot legislate injustice out of all our lives.

SPEAKER: Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. Chairman, I rise to, a point of personal privilege, if I could ask Senator Marsh a question, if she would yield?

SPEAKER: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Yes sir.