

March 21, 1974

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President, I'll be with Senator Marvel as soon as he's ready to go. This is where we left off yesterday.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Marvel, are you ready to test the water?

SENATOR MARVEL: Mr. President. Yes, it'll take a moment or two to tool up for....

PRESIDENT: Understandable.

SENATOR MARVEL:for complicated series of bills. We are involved, for the benefit of the Legislature, in the moments we have left this afternoon, we're involved in an amendment which has to do with vocational rehabilitation which starts on page 9 and completely amends page 9, 10, 11 and the top of page 12 through line 10. And I think... and as I indicated after the Clerk read the amendment the other day that we are establishing priorities in regard to vocational rehabilitation and I think Senator Barnett was ready to respond to this amendment, perhaps pose a question or two.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President, members...and to Senator Marvel, the questions I had yesterday and I have talked to your staff members to some degree the thing that is bothering me and the thing that is bothering many people in this area of the vocational rehabilitation is the fact that they continue to tell me and they continue to state they're going to be a million dollars short in the area of the physical handicapped for rehabilitation programs. Now, as I understand it, you've earmarked some of these funds which hasn't been done before, for this division. And, therefore, by earmarking the funds, you have so to speak tied their hands as to where they can pick up federal money. And I'd like to read from one part of this letter that I received. The only way in which this division can approach the funding of those programs outlined in LB1053 is to continue under our current third party agreements. They are afraid, as I take it, that they are afraid of losing approximately a million dollars in this field. And that's all I read through here. The thing I get is that they're continually telling us the physically handicapped people are a million dollars underfunded. I might continue a little bit and you can agree that possibly through your staff, I think I've been told that they had to generate new funds. Now there is money available but they have to generate new federal funds and they evidently feel that they will not have the staff to do it because with this reduction, they're going to have to relieve part of their staff. Is this basically the truth or is there other problems in this department that we should be aware of?

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel, do you care to respond?

SENATOR MARVEL: I think what we're talking about here is roughly \$5.4 million dollars which is spelled out in.....I don't think I'm on, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Yes, you are.

SENATOR MARVEL:which, I don't seem to be coming.....

PRESIDENT: I'll put it back where it was.