

March 21, 1979

LB 273

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the committee amendments are adopted. Senator Murphy, for what...?

SENATOR MURPHY: I had intended to address the committee amendment, Senator Marvel. I am sorry I was late, however, I think I can equally speak to the bill and as soon as Senator Keyes explains the bill, I would like to address it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay. Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: The purpose of this bill is to define the terms of a paraplegic and a multiple amputee. It seemed that the veterans came to us and said that in order to be a multiple amputee you had to have both arms below the elbow off or both legs off. You could not have one arm and one leg and be considered an amputee. We corrected that so that now it says that undergoing amputations of two extremities and that is the loss of one or more of his extremities. A mobile home owned and occupied by a disabled or blind person, we had it just veterans. We have broadened that out to include those that are not veterans. It seemed rather strange that we would say the man who had lost sight or who had lost the use of two extremities had to be a veteran in order to receive this benefits so we included all persons. That is what the amendments do to the bill and that is what the bill does.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy, do you wish to discuss the bill?

SENATOR MURPHY: I have a rather considerable question in my mind as to what we have done. We have taken a provision that we made for disabled veterans and have thrown it open to the whole world. Now I kind of... It says all persons, Senator.

SENATOR KEYES: Just Nebraska.

SENATOR MURPHY: In Nebraska? Well, I am glad. I don't want to take in Iowa but we are now opening this up to every handicapped person and the way I read it, I am eligible so I should probably sit down and shut up, but the fact of the matter is this is another one of those programs I don't think we can afford. There was certainly just cause to show special compassion for veterans who have been handicapped in the service and even after the service but who are veterans but to say that every handicapped person in