

March 29, 1979

LB 101

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, was Senator Labeledz closing?

PRESIDENT: No. This is on the... She was not closing, Senator Koch. This is on the advancing of LB 101.

SENATOR KOCH: A question then of Senator Labeledz.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Labeledz, will you respond?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Labeledz, would you be opposed if I amended this bill to include a commission for the blind as well?

SENATOR LABEDZ: You mean in one commission?

SENATOR KOCH: Yes.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I believe I would be opposed to that, Senator Koch. Their wants and needs are entirely different. We need interpreters for the Commission on the Deaf or the Hearing Impaired. The blind does have their own commission right now and I...

SENATOR KOCH: Where is it?

SENATOR LABEDZ: ...I think when you start grouping them you become ineffective. They will have the deaf people on the commission and I believe that putting them in one commission would not be correct or would not be necessary.

SENATOR KOCH: Well thank you, Senator Labeledz, but I can't pass this opportunity because it is time for an object lesson again. Two years ago I tried to create a commission for the blind and physically impaired and the bill was a complete bomb because there was an \$80,000 fiscal note to it. Now I observe the body that is just as green as the grass is becoming because of the beautiful day yesterday so my object lesson is this. If I come in next year to create a commission specifically for the blind then I would hope the body would be equally willing to support that commission because of the unique needs of blind people. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.