

April 5, 1979

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\$210,000 and I guess it was at that point in time that I assumed that when we came back next year that that particular fiscal note would be pretty much the same or perhaps maybe somewhat of an increase but, ladies and gentlemen and members of the Legislature, in looking at the summary of existing commissions for the deaf, I handed out to you sometime this week information relative to other states and their commissions in terms of their initial funding and what they are today and I bring this to your attention just as a matter of information. I guess a question that would be appropriate would be, if we were to come back here in two years and this particular commission right now, the money that is earmarked for this commission right now is approximately \$210,000, but if you were to come back in three years and you knew right now that this particular amount of money that will be appropriated for this commission will rise to three quarters of a million dollars, would you then support this? If you knew for a fact that it would, would you support it? Well, if you would look at, for example, the State of Iowa, the year of initial funding was 1977 and that cost for that particular commission was \$20,000. The current budget today is \$84,000. It has tripled. If you would look at the State of South Dakota, the year of initial funding at that point in 1975 as opposed to what it is now, it has tripled. You look at Virginia, for example, which started out with a fourteen member board at \$30,000 in 1972 and today the budget is \$144,000. North Carolina, their current budget was \$200,000. Connecticut for example, the year of initial funding was 1975. They started out with four commission members in 1975 at a cost of \$75,000. Today, 1979, they have almost sixty full time and part time employees with a budget in excess of one half million dollars and I guess the question I would have of Senator Labeledz and, Senator, would you perhaps maybe speak to this? I guess, Bernice, when you look at the services that are being provided in this particular piece of legislation, what is being provided in this legislation that is not being provided to the handicapped or to the deaf right now?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Okay. The information that you sent out the other day, I have a two page report explaining why each state increased and I would take up too much of your time but in my closing I will give you the reasons for the states that you mentioned, Iowa, South Dakota, Texas, Connecticut and Massachusetts but I don't want to take up your time but I do have reasons why and the main reason we will have to remember is that in Texas for instance it went up to \$358,000