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LB 101

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Other than the fact that they are both human beings what do they have in common as far as their disability.

SENATOR NEWELL: They have the same discrimination. They have the very same problems in terms of being able to deal with a society that generally does not have those problems. They face the same difficulties in job functions, have the same, in terms of discrimination, in terms of employment and opportunities.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Newell, let me zero in on the kind of things I am concerned about. If we had a barrier waist high across that aisle and it was being approached by a deaf person and by a blind person and nobody could advise them of what their situation was, would they each deal with that barrier in the same fashion?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator, no, they would not deal with the barrier in the same fashion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right, now let's say that instead of it being an object which the blind person could not see but which the deaf one would, there is something which the blind person can hear but the deaf one cannot. Would they be in different circumstances despite both being disabled?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Chambers, now I am going to explain. I am not going to answer in yes or no answers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is all right. Thank you. You can take your time.

SENATOR NEWELL: I knew you would stop. I knew that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, you know why I asked the questions in the fashion that I did? I said the other day it is too easy to speak in undifferentiated terms when we are talking about others but there is as much difference, and I don't mean a pun, between somebody who is blind and somebody who is deaf as there is between day and night. Their circumstances are not the same and part of the problem is that those of us who feel that we are not disabled or handicapped will say everybody who is not like me should be placed in one category despite the fact that they are very different, not only in their disability but the problems that they face. There is a fear in some instances, a contempt in others which is felt toward people with different types