

I promised to do that but it took some time in fact it took much longer than I thought that it would. Before I was able to get the information together the budget committee had completed their work. It was actually my fault that I did not get that information back to him.

SENATOR MARSH: I am aware that the State Patrol helicopter was not a new one at the time they purchased it. It was one year of age at the time it was purchased. I still am hopeful that all state agencies who may hear or hear about this discussion will be aware that they should be contacting the Appropriations Committee when it has to do with appropriations for state agencies, particularly something of this nature. I appreciate the fact that you have brought it as a need as you see it and I also appreciate the fact that Senator Warner said that there are dollars for us to add on this floor. We must pick and choose wisely which dollars we will add because there is a limit to the number of dollars. I personally have mixed emotions, but a helicopter of that age could very well need replacing as soon as possible. If you have any additional information I would be glad to have you share it with me, either privately or on the floor.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, a question of Senator Schmit if he will yield.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I yield, Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Schmit, having experience with this type of transportation, what is the average life expectancy of a helicopter providing maintenance has been carried out?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator Koch, you can maintain and extend the life of an aircraft virtually indefinitely if you comply with all of the requirements as has been done with this particular piece of equipment. One thing that you really can not do is that you can not update it to the present capability of the present equipment plus the fact that there is such a thing as what we call fatigue that is built into an aircraft. When you view the responsibility with which this equipment is used and recognize that you call upon the troopers to operate it, to operate under extremely emergency conditions many times under adverse weather conditions and over load conditions, under power conditions, it brings out so to speak the best in the equipment. It may be very well that this equipment would be completely satisfactory for me to travel between Belwood and Lincoln with on a nice bright sun shiny day, whereas I would not really like