

March 4, 1980

LB 769

we have in place, but the programs that they assign them to, Senator Dworak, are misapplications and the money is spent, and the child is injured and the parents cry. By recognizing autism as it is and specifying programs...

SENATOR DWORAK: Thank you, Senator Kelly, I don't want to hold this out and I am going to ask Senator Koch the same question as to a definition of autism and what we are commencing on here now by putting this in the Department of Education, changing the definition of the people the schools are supposed to serve. Aren't we opening up a door here, Senator Koch, that has got profound economic ramifications to the secondary schools, primary and secondary schools in the State of Nebraska?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch, do you want to....I'm sorry, Senator Kelly, do you want to....Senator Koch...go ahead.

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator Koch...

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, I will respond to that. The reason we decided that this term was proper here, is if you look at the federal law when they discuss and try to define "behaviorally impaired" they also say this can include the autistic child, because if you look at the definitions you will find they are rather similar in terms of how we try to define a child who by age thirty months demonstrates certain characteristics that generally cause people to say, this child is autistic among those being responses to sensory stimuli, speech, language, cognitive capacities and capacities to rate the people, and this is a behavioral problem and I think it is properly placed in this piece of legislation and it does not bring about a profound cost to the State of Nebraska but might bring about some profound good advantages for certain kinds of children.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is to advance the bill as amended. All those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted? We are voting on the advancement of 769 as amended. We'll take one more bill after this and then we'll call it an afternoon. You have an addendum to the agenda that lists General File bills. I wish you would hang onto that and also the Special Order sheet. Have you all voted? The motion is the advancement of the bill. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. George, please.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Have you all voted? Record the vote.