

March 26, 1980

LB 1002

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Powers.

SENATOR POWERS: Mr. President, I would like to ask a question of Senator Murphy.

PRESIDENT: Senator Murphy, would you respond?

SENATOR MURPHY: Yes, sir.

SENATOR POWERS: Senator Murphy, you specifically mentioned teenager in your amendment. Did you mean teenager, people thirteen and older?

SENATOR MURPHY: No, I meant teenagers as we normally consider them still in our school system, down to whatever level. If there are schools that have problems at five and six and eight years old, certainly they should be incorporated in it. I used the word teenager because I think predominantly in our schools the ages from fourteen to probably seventeen are the most affected but I don't mean to include only thirteen to nineteen.

SENATOR POWERS: Thank you, Senator Murphy, because I would like to point out that this education process starts at age six and seven and if you were to specify teenager it would have upset me. Number two, am I to understand from Senator Cullan's remarks and you haven't gone back to him on that, do you agree that this is a recommendation that they concentrate on education or was your amendment that they mandate that \$1,000,000 be spent specifically for this?

SENATOR MURPHY: No, the only mandate, Senator, is that at least \$1,000,000 of the roughly \$6,000,000 that the state is spending collectively treating alcohol problems that \$1,000,000 would be dedicated to the problem, be it education or treatment or both but that we address the problem of our young people and that we use at least \$1,000,000 of this fund to do that.

SENATOR POWERS: Senator Murphy, do you understand that of the \$6,000,000 that we talk about, I believe only about a million eight is an optional discretion of the department from which they could draw these funds for education? There are funds that go to the hospital in Hastings and other areas but really you are only talking about a million eight and when you talk about taking a million out of a million and eight you are taking a big chunk out of it but the fact that you don't insist that it be a mandated \$1,000,000 makes me feel more comfortable. Thank you.