

April 1, 1980

LB 773

appreciate the Speaker's action...but in my absence and I always thought the body had some ethics and I am not accusing anyone of being unethical, there was a part of the bill which was stricken which is imperative to the bill itself. If we are not going to do this, we might as well forget the whole bill because the bill attempts to bring about inter-agency agreements among those agencies that serve handicapped people, including those zero to five. For a number of years there was on the books a council. However, it was never funded and therefore there was nothing that ever came forth that was of any positive value to the people, and what Senator Murphy did in striking this line was, he struck that the Legislature shall appropriate such funds as necessary for staff expenses to carry out the mission of this bill, and I think the bill is important. In fact, there are a number of states who presently have this kind of legislation. If we ever want to get a handle on assessment upon what agency is doing what in relationship to people who are handicapped, this is the only way this body is every going to know. I have oftentimes heard us discuss the cost, duplications, and a lot of other problems related to programs, but for the first time we are saying to agencies, you are going to work together, the Department of Education is going to be given the responsibility, and you are going to give this report to us annually on who is being served by whom and to what extent and what costs are being utilized. I have a feeling that this bill, in fact, is a bill that not only will complement our programs for the handicapped but will also cut down on a considerable amount of sometimes negligence on the part of agencies or signing off on the part of agencies and others have to try to pick up those costs. And for us to say we are not going to fund it, we are putting this bill in limbo because it does call...if you read the bill very carefully, very specifically for certain kinds of missions to be carried out, and one is a statewide assessment. Secondly, there shall be negotiated agreements among those various agencies and other agencies who serve these kinds of people, and then we are going to know who is doing what, and then this Legislature and the next phase of legislation may say very specifically, you shall do these things. Today we are talking about roles and missions as postsecondary. Really what we are doing here is role and mission of agencies serving the handicapped. I ask for the addition of this language to strike the Murphy amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the motion is to return the bill to Select File for the specific amendment as explained by