

April 18, 1980

LB 773A

SENATOR MURPHY: As a matter of philosophy, I think it is wrong for this Legislature to just blindly throw money at a problem. A number of years ago we instructed two of the largest agencies of this state to carry out a rather ordinary piece of business involved with their two departments, business that was more or less routine in those two agencies. DPI has a budget of over seventy-three million, the Department of Education has a budget of over a hundred and fifty-one million and we are asked to believe that the only way this problem can be rectified is to give them another thirty-two thousand five hundred dollars and then they can proceed to do that which you told them to do five years ago. I think this is a very wrong approach to government. I think for an agency, for two agencies that size to say that they are held back by lack of funds or personnel is asking you to believe something that is almost ludicrous. A point of philosophy, don't solve all problems by just blindly throwing more money at them.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Shall the bill become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor and we are talking about 773A, is that right, Senator Koch? I am sorry.

SENATOR KOCH: Don't I get one more shot, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes.

SENATOR KOCH: Well, what I am saying to this body is that I don't think we are blindly throwing money. We are saying to these people by next December you are going to give us a report and we want it so it can be interpreted and we want it accurately. We want to know the number of people you are serving, who you are serving and to what degree you are applying money to that service and I want to tell you if we want to get to the agencies and how they are spending their money, the only way we can do it is to hold them accountable and I will be one of the first when I come back here next December if I still have the courage to demand that there is indeed that report and I will look at it very carefully along with Senator Warner, along with the Governor and other members of this body. I think it is high time that these agencies started working together instead of to their own little empires and I will expect them to work together, otherwise we will find a piece of legislation which will define their role very specifically. I ask for the override of the Governor's veto.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch was closing. The motion now is shall the bill become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? All those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Senator Koch. Record.

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