

Mr. President, I have no amendments on the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those of us who commute usually have a few problems. Those of you who live here have few. To walk on the floor and suddenly seeing the bill up here is somewhat of a shock but I will try to gain my...regain my composure and LB 336 is legislation that attempts to support, half try to support the talking book program which we have dealt with before. In fact in 1979, we adopted LB 124 which established authority for the radio talking book service under the auspices of the services for the visually impaired. At that time the Legislature saw fit to adopt an appropriation bill of \$25,000 annually to support that program which serves over 2,000 people who are visually impaired. The sunset clause was attached to the legislation at that time, and at the present time, the sunset provision is up for review. The Education Committee heard this piece of legislation a few days ago and passed to the floor as you can read in your bill book a unanimous condition for your consideration. The A bill which accompanies this piece of legislation is \$12,500 for the remaining part of the fiscal year. I need not review for you the value of radio talking book for those who have visual impairments. I did have some information I was going to give each of you but I think that would be diminishing your intelligence and your feelings for certain kinds of people. What I am asking you to do in 336 is to say the state is willing to help support radio talking book and those people who are served by the radio itself. For those of you who may not be familiar with this program, what happens is you have readers who constantly are providing services to the visually impaired. They read from newspapers, they read from various advertising as it relates to food sales, as it relates to a number of other things. They also read from various novels, verses, literature, poetry, you name it, and these people who have those boxes in their homes are provided this service. I am asking you to support LB 336 and the money will be given to the Department of Public Institutions under the auspices of the visually impaired and that will help support radio talking book. And that is the end of my line, Mr. O'Donnell. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this particular proposal brings back a memory to me. When the bill was passed in 1979, there was a provision that provided that the funding would be given oversight because we established the elimination for funding December 31, 1981.