

funds are going to be shifted to the regions which have not been providing significant tax contributions. Incidentally, one of the reasons Region IV is so low is that they have not participated extensively in federal funding compared to other regions.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I would support Senator Kahle's effort to bring this bill to the floor. I think it is a series of legislation that we are going to have to be addressing this session with regards to the relationship of the state to these local regional programs and the funding relationship, and the reason we have to address it this year is that many of the premises upon which that was based, that is a certain amount of federal support, is now gone. If we are going to maintain the type of community programs, the community mental health, the community mental retardation, the community alcoholism programs in a successful manner in some way or another, we are going to have to address these funding questions. Perhaps Senator Kahle's, the bill he is dealing with does not solve all problems and may have some objections in certain parts but that is not a reason not to at least try and bring the bill before us for discussion. It would have been helpful, perhaps, if the committee would have been able to work out any of those small problems and brought the bill to us, but in any case, the community mental health program, I know that in the region in which I live, that there are major problems ahead for support and a very definite fear of reinstitutionalization of people who normally could have gotten mental health services in the community. The cost to the state will be far greater if we have to institutionalize people rather than provide community support. I think Senator Kahle is bringing before us an issue that must be addressed as part of this whole new federalism concept that we are supposed to be dealing with. So I certainly would support his effort.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in opposition to raising this bill from the Public Health and Welfare Committee. I make the objection for two reasons, the first reason is that I think that our bringing to the floor at this time a bill that basically is designed to deal with the federal cutbacks in funds is premature. As you and I well know, there are many federal cutbacks in funds occurring now. We have not yet seen all