

May 13, 1985

LB 280A
LR 81

right previously, if you were right previously, then you are not wrong now simply because the Governor, one individual, vetoed this particular bill. I repeat, check our history. The infirm, the mentally retarded, the mental health programs, those are the ones we make our first battleground over always it seems. There are other major issues that could have been made the battleground for the first really major budget veto but why, why they pick on this one, I don't know. I am voting to override because we were right in the first instance. We were right when we did it the first time. We were right when everybody worked out a compromise. We were right when we selected this method of getting some money to community mental health. Now let me tell you the history of 280A. The history of 280A goes something like this. The people that normally would have been going through the budget process and trying to get money out of the budget bill and would have undoubtedly by any standards of fairness been successful, with the acknowledgement and acceptance I think of everybody, Appropriations Committee and others, the method was determined to get the money out of 280A. That was what was understood and agreed. That was what was accepted. Now there is a repudiation of that, there is a repudiation of that, so to speak, contract when there is no way for the mental health people to get that money from any other source. It is too late to go back and start the budget process over so I think you have an obligation to override this particular veto and I would urge you to do so, and I would say, review those three histories, the histories of the alcohol tax and how it came about, what was understood; the history of what we regularly do on mental health; and finally the history of 280A, why it was structured that way, who did it, who were participants to it, who agreed to it. I think you have no choice but on this particular one to say, principle, principle takes one hop higher than party, and vote to override this particular veto.

PRESIDENT: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 81. Continuing the motion of Senator DeCamp to override the veto, the Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, my remarks in support of the motion will be brief. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am very aware of the fiscal problems. I am also aware that