

May 15, 1985

LB 722

weeks ago, for the anticipated costs of the program they are planning, I got this answer--we really don't know yet. Mr. President, could I for you to get order for me, please. Mr. President, would you please get order for me on the floor.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, I think it is needed, Senator Smith. A lot of the noise, I think, is coming from under the north balcony.

SENATOR SMITH: I was telling the body that I had asked DPI, some weeks ago, for anticipated costs of the program that they were planning, and I was not able to get any information. This is evidenced by Exhibit A, a letter that I have included in the packet of information that you should have before you now, which gives the response that I received when I requested facts, figures and information. As you can see the letter gives me no information, but simply refers me to someone else to try to find the information from, which we did. I will give you that information, which was an estimate also, shortly. DPI is moving ahead with the program and they have no idea what it will cost. Okay, now in the estimates that I received from the Region III mental health and alcoholism program administrator, he told me that he didn't yet know the costs himself, but he'd made some projections. His estimates included at least \$55,000 for renovation and construction of a new facility and furnishings. Also it is interesting to note that DPI has hired...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Senators, excuse me Senator, for your closing statements I want to make sure you are heard. Go ahead.

SENATOR SMITH: ...they have hired a consultant to develop the plan at a cost of \$20,000. This person also has not been able to give me any information. On an ongoing basis the Region III Director says that a staff of 7 people will be hired to fill 24 hour, 7 day shift. You and I know that staff to fill a 24 hour shift in a quasi medical setting do not come cheap. The estimates for staff alone range from \$112,000 to \$150,000 per year. Let's see, I have a chart...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: I'm going to run out of time. Mr. Trambly,