

people's request. I know we have in the budget \$750,000 for a new airplane. I just don't feel that we have to have that airplane. But we do need to serve the people. That is what I propose toward these measured steps, fairness in distribution of money for community mental retardation programs. Unfortunately it does not go far enough to provide funding for these very good programs, but it is time to take these steps. We should not wait another year. We will just get further behind. Now let me explain. Funding, for community mentally retarded programs, has almost always been inadequate. There just hasn't been enough to meet all the need. Several years ago we also found that funding has not been distributed with equity. That began an effort to look at fair and adequate funding. Most people have agreed, all along, that none of the programs have been overfunded. So that has led to attempts to find out what is adequate funding and equitable funding. Now I'm going to ask Senator Warner a question, if he'll respond.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Warner, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR SIECK: Now as I understand the funding formula provides for funding fairness and adequate programs. Would you explain how you came up with this funding formula.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Sieck, the issue of distribution of funding for community mental retardation has been discussed now almost two years. Historically the funding, as far as the total amount, as well as what each region received, probably could be best described as negotiated. So beginning a little better than a year and a half now ago DPI proposed development of a model for determining both the needs and the distribution of funds. They had hired Touche-Ross to do a study which they came up with a model that turned out to be portions of which were controversial, portions were not. The model, in essence, determines the various clients to be high, low, or medium in their needs. The numbers of each of those individuals, the number of individuals that fall into each of those groups are supplied by the regions to the Department of Social Services. As a factor in the formula which, in essence, takes the type of handicap, high, low, or medium, times a factor which is then utilized to determine the staffing needs of each of the types of handicap that there might be. Included also in the bill is a requirement for contribution from local governmental