

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, before I speak, I thought due to some comments I made about religion I was being smitten blind, but Senator Hall pointed out that since some people feel that figuratively we operate in the dark, literally we may as well operate in the dark, so the lights were turned out. But I have a question I would like to ask Senator Vickers. From page 3, talking about speech impaired, on line 14, at the top of page 3, well, lines 13 and 14, language impairment. What does that term "language" refer to?

SENATOR VICKERS: You mean a language impairment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.

SENATOR VICKERS: It is simply an attempt to define the term "speech impaired", as I understand it, all those various impaired articulation, stuttering, language impairment, and voice impairment. And I don't exactly know...again, that is out of the federal statute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I wonder if because of the attitude that some people in other parts of the country have toward children who are considered ignorant, though they speak two languages and those of us who are highly educated only speak one, may see that second language as a language impairment. Otherwise, I don't know what part it would play in this definition, because language refers not to pronunciation, enunciation, articulation. So, what does it mean?

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Chambers, let me tell you what I told the committee in my attempts to cap the mildly handicapped. I think there are many times, since we did not have any definition at all before of speech impairment, this is the first time we put a definition in, that there were many cases, instances where young people were put in a special education program, again to get that 90 percent reimbursement from the state, when, in fact their speech impediment was very much like the common cold, if I get a common cold and take all the medicines that I can get ahold of, I'll probably get over my cold in seven days. On the other hand, if I get a common cold and don't take anything, I'll get over it in a week. It seems to me a lot of these youngsters were put in there that simply outgrew their impairment, if you will, anyway. The instance I used was our sons, when they were little, said "shicken" instead of "chicken", but suddenly they were 10 years old they were able to say "chicken" and they never