

February 24, 1975

PRESIDENT: The Legislature will please come to order. The chair recognizes Senator Ralph Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, talking to LB 555, I commend Senator Lewis for bringing this question to the Legislature. I don't necessarily commend it being on General File without a public hearing. I believe a lot of the wrangle that we will be going through would have been answered if the people involved in this question would have had an opportunity to tell this Legislature just exactly where the problem is and just exactly how many dollars are involved. We have been denied that opportunity, but I do commend Senator Lewis because this is a serious problem. But I see it a little different than Senator Lewis does as I do not believe that we have a choice of passing LB 555 or sinking and ruining and putting in oblivion forever the merits of LB 403. I don't believe that that's the question that's before this Legislature. I see a question here of good government in that the Legislature provides the money, that the administration provides the administration and the two should not get involved with each other but I believe that we may be doing that with 555. The administration has bungled the distributing of the money that the Legislature appropriated and there it sets. Senator Lewis is giving us an end run to get around that log jam but there is nothing that I have seen or heard that allows me to believe that the Department of Education is going to do one bit better of distributing the money on this end run than they have done with the direct path that they, themselves, were involved in creating and establishing with Senator Stahmer in how this should work and how it should be administered. LB 403 was no surprise to anybody. It had a public hearing. The Department of Education was deeply involved in writing the formulas and the procedures under the operation of 403. Now we have an emergency that is on the floor of the Legislature to do away with the log jam by giving the Department of Education another administrative formula that they must comply with in 14 days and be all done with in a matter of four weeks. From what I have seen, that is asking an awful lot and I suggest one other thought in 555. Is it the intention of this Legislature to come to the rescue of every lousely administrated bill that comes out of this Legislature? Are we going to continue this procedure of when we run into a log jam with money, that we bypass the bills that were written in deliberation and have emergency legislation that will set up a whole new ball game for the administrators to have for a month. Think seriously about good government as you debate this bill. Now those kids, like we just saw here a minute ago, we will educate those to the best of our ability and our administrators will do it but they can't do it if we emergency, emergency and continue a policy of this path.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Lewis...uncle Frank a question. Senator Lewis, what schools are really pressing that this has to be done within the next 30 days or 60 days. I have had no general pressure from back home from any of my three school districts at all on it. I have talked to all of them about it but there seems