

February 2, 1976

Educationally 383 is an excellent bill. In terms of the economics of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce and others I think Senator Kelly has put forward some arguments.

I'd ask you not to return the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: First of all, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the position you've taken on discussion on the proposal to move a bill back. In that Senator Kelly, of course, made a brief explanation as to why he thought the bill ought to be moved back it's only fair that those of us that either support the bill or have introduced a bill have the same privilege. Senator Kelly and I have been divided by the Platte River for a long time. Now we're further divided on this, of course.

I do not want to discuss the merits of the bill, only to remind the body that when this bill was before us, on General File and all the way down the line, an amendment was placed on the bill by Senator Dworak wherein the very favorable vote was cast on the bill as it moved ahead that in our opinion it makes this bill a fair bill. Let's remember the discussion that we had on this proposed legislation as it moved across and vote accordingly. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise to support Senator Kremer and I rise to oppose the motion to return the bill. As Senator Lewis has said there are those of us who would not have created class six districts perhaps if we would have been in a position to do differently at a different time. But that time has passed us by. The class sixes are a fact of life. It is a true fact and a statement of fact that the question here is one over a tax base, that we have created those districts, they have a right to exist. There may come sometime, in the future, when another look will be taken at the issue. At the present time I think we need to protect those class six districts or else there's going to be nothing left, no base whatsoever for them to operate from.

I think we've discussed the issue many times. We've attempted to resolve the issue. This is at least some kind of approach to maintain the integrity, of those districts, I believe they deserve. I would hope we would oppose the motion to return the bill and instead read it on Final Reading and pass the bill.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall the bill be... Oh, Senator Kelly, excuse me.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. In closing I would just make a few remarks about ... tax base is the name of the game when it comes to education. There's no doubt that that is the core of the argument on LB 383. I remind you that in the wisdom of this Legislature when the error of the class six districts was recognized the Legislature put in a buffer zone around the class three district. If my memory is correct this is a five-mile geographical area in which we exclude class six being next to a class three.