

February 20, 1976

But let's not be so afraid that the children are going to be corrupted because the instructors in any institution might have a point of view different than mine. I would have no concern about my child going to an institution of a different religious faith than my own. I know that that child has been trained and I know that that child can sort out his own thinking, and if it chooses to do differently than what I had perhaps taught it, maybe I didn't do the job the way I should have done so. But let's not bring up the old arguments. Let's provide the aid for the handicapped children in the best possible manner and get on with the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to prolong the debate for two or three very good reasons but I cannot let Senator Chambers' charge go unanswered. Senator Chambers claims that the proponents of this bill have a, you called it an iron fist, at home we called it brass knuckles enclosed in a velvet glove and that we're all involved in some kind of an integral religious plot. I resent that Senator Chambers since I have no interest in terms of the religious advocacy that those that might be involved in a religious institution. The issue is clear. I think Senator Chambers has tried to change it into a situation that has brought a great deal of comfort to Northern Ireland and other places and I think that that's wrong and inherently wrong. Again I would ask you to look at what the amendment calls for. The amendment that Senator Mills is striking out calls for students, aid to students to fully utilize a program that is authorized, sanctioned and funded through taxpayer money at the federal level. That is what we are requesting, only that. Anyone that tries to make a bigger issue out of that is fishing, is grasping at straws and is not getting to the issue at hand. That is the issue. That's the only issue.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Lewis a question which he can answer very briefly in deference to his voice condition and I wish he were not hoarse at this time so that he wouldn't seem to be at a disadvantage. I don't think his mind is at a disadvantage but he does have a bit of difficulty speaking so that's why the shortness of this question. Senator Lewis, are you implying or are you stating that there are inadequate classrooms in the public postsecondary schools to accommodate the students in Nebraska who would like a postsecondary education? Is that what you are saying?

SENATOR LEWIS: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. That is all I wanted to ask you.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: May I clarify on that a little.