

February 26, 1976

It's a small district. It's a rather severe imposition on them as a small district. I'll offer that on Select File. I just wanted to make Senator Clark aware.

PRESIDENT: Well then we're back to the Committee amendments. Senator Clark, you've moved the adoption of the Committee amendments. Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, 23 not voting.

PRESIDENT: The amendments are adopted. Senator Clark.

CLERK: Senator Frank Lewis offers an amendment. (Read Lewis amendment found on pages 807 and 808 of the Journal).

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I have talked to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. We had a time problem in terms of this amendment. I hope this is not a surprise amendment to the members of the Appropriations Committee.

This is the final.... You have a letter on your desk from the Administrator of Finance, Department of Education. The subject is deficiency appropriations for Special Education.

You remember last year we were in a bind in terms of determining the true cost of Special Education to your local school districts, in terms of allowable funds. The letter is self-explanatory. Now we have a final handle on those figures. They are there before you. My amendment simply calls for an additional \$524,200.32. What this does.... This indeed puts the state in a clean position in regard to our commitment for Special Education. This pays our 90 percent allowable cost for last year. It cleans the slate. It cleans the bill. It takes care of all the deficiency appropriations. That means, based on that, that the Omaha school district, the Scotts Bluff school district, the Bellevue school district, the Fremont school district, the Plattsmouth school district, all the way down the line will receive the full entitlement under Special Education that was promised in LB 403. It, once and for all, cleans up the funding mechanism in regard to the Special Education for the past year.

You have the amendment. You have the figures. I think you can note what Mr. Belin said in regard to that.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, a question for Senator Lewis to get it on the record. It's my understanding there's legislation pending in the body, probably in your Committee or reported out, that would try to correct this situation for the future so that the budgets would be based ... so that we would be able to appropriate on the basis of the past expenditures. Is that correct?