

March 1, 1976

would do. We now have the figures. You have the sheet before you from the State Department explaining those figures and I'd ask for you to adopt the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I think Senator Lewis has another amendment on another item. I would like to respond to this to explain to the Legislature exactly what we have done and one of the problems that some Legislature in the future is going to have to address itself to. There aren't too many legislators here but I will try. I think Senator Lewis indicated this, the figures that I have show that last year the excess that we appropriated over and above the original claims of about \$10,168,295 was a little over 1.3 million and that the proposed excess that still is outstanding is about \$542,837. Here is the dilemma, Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, you get into. I assume Senator Lewis in another bill has solved the problem. When we talk about a percentage of a program that we are going to fund, the school districts estimate what that program is going to be. We appropriate the money but we do not take into account the expansion of the programs. So what I am saying is that the 90% figure can be taken two or three different ways. If you take it on the basis of what the original program is, we have undoubtedly funded our agreed amount, but if you are talking about an expansion of the program that occurred, after the original figure was set up, then, in effect, you have this figure and may I say to you unless we do something about it, this Legislature is going to continue in this area and other state aid areas constantly be in a deficiency position and I think we ought to work overtime to try to get away from deficiency appropriations. Now Senator Lewis and his Committee may have another solution to the problem. As I understand, in the future, the state contribution will be based on last year's figure and I want to make one other comment. Had we used the figures that the State Department originally recommended in this area, we would be several million dollars in arrears at the moment. So I think we have to work overtime to keep from constantly being in a deficient position as far as state aid is concerned. Otherwise, we are never going to get out of this dilemma.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President and members of the body, I arise to support the deficit appropriation to meet the moral commitment that we made to the schools under 403. I agree with Senator Marvel also that we should try to remove ourselves from the problem of deficit appropriations. I can assure him that under 761 we will resolve that issue because it will be based upon the preceding year's experience in terms of exceptional children and their needs. Therefore, from now on, this body should be able to meet its commitment to whatever extent they agree to for the forthcoming