

March 16, 1976

Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. My point was, in trying to review this bill for you, that a family came to the Education Committee and expressed a very serious problem, a problem where they lived over 65 miles from school, the roads were not good.... Thirty-five miles, I'm sorry, let me correct that. The roads were not good and so what they had to do, they had to go around the South Dakota line where it was more than 70 miles. They lived 11 or 12 miles from Burke, South Dakota on an oiled road. The Class 6 school did not want to help provide that service. As a consequence one young man dropped out of school. Thanks to Senator Stull's motion probably will stay out of school now. Senator Stull decided to take the position to protect the Class 6 school district to make sure they didn't have to pay anything, so they wouldn't have an appeals route. If that's the attitude and that's the position Senator Stull has effectively gutted the bill. Now if you want to pass it on and if you want to tell that family up there, or those three or four families and other families that if they have some kind of protection in 920, please be my guest. As for me I want to be candid with them and tell them there's not anything in that bill that helps them. That's up to your local school board, just as it is now. They don't have to pay. The amendment says that they can send down, the local school district can make a decision. An appeal may be made by the constituent in that district. Those recommendations are forwarded back to the local school district which says nothing, absolutely meaningless. It's just another form that can be filled out and prescribed. I know how Senator Stull hates forms so I want to help him by this method. This bill will probably cost another couple of thousand dollars to process. It signifies nothing except it might give some people some false hopes, and they shouldn't have those. The posture of the Legislature should be that those children don't deserve any help, they're not going to get any help because that's what we've said. If they don't like it and if they can't make it across those roads that's tough because that's the posture of the Legislature right now. We want to make that very clear. So we make it very clear by killing the bill and starting back where we were. That means the local district can do whatever they want to. I'd ask you, in the effort of saving time, paper and taxpayers dollars not to pass this bill which now signifies nothing.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kime.

SENATOR KIME: Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I don't want to see this bill killed. Everything that Senator Lewis has said is approximately right, however, I'm sure that these people ... this school district will listen to their plea. They're not asking If they ask for all of it they won't get it. If they ask for part of this and then are refused and take their complaint to the State Board of Education for that body's recommendations, I'm sure they're going to get half of it at least. I don't want to see this bill killed. I want to see it go on. Then if it don't work this year it certainly can be amended next year because it will be on the books and in the place where it can be amended. I hope that you turn down this kill motion.