

March 16, 1976

SENATOR F. LEWIS: They can do it in every other district. We have a four mile limitation on every other district, on every other kind of child. Now why do we do that?

SENATOR MURPHY: Well I asked you first.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Oh, I'm sorry.

SENATOR MURPHY: But the....

SENATOR F. LEWIS: The answer to your question is yes they can provide it if they want to. Now the second question you asked me was a judgemental question and I answered it in that way.

SENATOR MURPHY: I'm still at a loss then to understand an actual need for this piece of legislation if the school district can presently do it.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Well Senator Fitz.... I'm not going to defend Senator Fitzgerald's bill because tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day and as one of the Irishmen he's perfectly capable of doing it himself. My only response to you would be that sometimes school districts don't do what they can do. They have the same choice in every other district. But they only transport those they have to in some districts. Other districts transport from door to door.

SENATOR MURPHY: Then it was your Committees' opinion that under this are we mandating that they do it?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Yes.

SENATOR MURPHY: So we are taking away from the local school district its option and we're going to mandate that they shall do this.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Now Senator Murphy, if you have that kind of desire we might take away all the mileage situations in every other district if you'd like.

SENATOR MURPHY: No, I was just looking for the intent of this particular piece of legislation. Thank you.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Oh, I see.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'd like to remind this body, as Senator Murphy has done also, that again we are mandating that a local school district do something. We're continually criticized for entering into their affairs. This is an option the district now has. This doesn't only apply to Class 5 districts. I don't know why the bill is limited to Class 5 districts. This same thing happens in other districts where they are mandated to pick up elementary school youngsters beyond four miles from school. They leave the high school youngsters stand there. The parent is responsible. They all have the option of bussing all the kids from two feet across the street, if they want to, to the school door. I think this is special legislation for an individual case, which