

March 8, 1984

LB 341

tuition is calculated. Now this allows the receiving district to charge more than 125 percent of the per pupil cost. But if a school does charge above 125 percent of the per pupil cost the net effect is that their equalization aid is reduced or eliminated. Now the rationale is, while some people would say, okay, if you're going to charge more than that, you should not worry about state aid and just go back to the 125 percent and then collect state aid instead of the excess tuition. That sounds good on the surface and that would be okay except there is a two-year time lag. So if, for instance, this year a school would only charge 125 percent of per pupil cost, it would be two years before the equalization money would come to the school. What more can I say?

SENATOR NEWELL: Well that...I feel so much better now that it is all clear. I'm not at all sure that I still feel very comfortable with this proposal and I'm not sure that we've got the clearest of recommendations here, but what I sense Senator Lamb is saying is, is that he wants to make sure that there is going to be a cap on tuition that might be charged. I have always felt that tuition is really a complicated issue and based on a number of criteria, based on a number of things, but my experience is a limited one in northeast Nebraska where, in fact, there is plenty of competition for those students and tuition is held arbitrarily low. Senator Lamb wants to assure that in some places that tuition will, in fact, have to continue to be arbitrarily low and I just don't know why the rationale for that and at this point in time I'll not support the amendment because the rationale has not been explained as completely as I would like to have it explained.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and members, in order to try to clarify the issue, let me put it as plain as I can because I know there are those people that are concerned about certain types of schools. Senator Lamb's amendment is not going to give more state aid dollars to Class I schools, if there are people in here that think that might be the case. Senator Lamb's amendment will give more dollars to