

March 12, 1984

LB 994A

now where it depends entirely on that teacher's ability and that teacher's efforts to qualify for any funds and that we send it to them regardless of what they do at the local level, then I think if we are getting in the middle of any negotiation processes at all, it seems to me we are more on the side of the school board, that is meaning that the school board would be able to say, well, you are getting a \$500 raise or whatever it is from the stipends, whatever amount the Legislature decides to fund and, therefore, resist to some degree the movement in the negotiation process to get a larger increase. I don't think it is reducing the ability of the local school board at all. We have to also recognize that in 994 it requires that evaluation to take place before that stipend money goes there so the school board is still in charge as to who gets it. That obviously puts them in a position of having to evaluate people that maybe they are not too comfortable about doing but we attempt to do it and set up a mechanism to help them to be able to do it, to let them do it.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: You have one minute, Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: I think to remove this entirely is to turn our back on the fact that the people out there are saying that we have got some teachers we should help to improve their skills and I believe that that is what we are doing when we reduce these funds. We are ignoring that completely. We are saying, no, folks, we don't believe you, we think those teachers who are out there are all great, we don't want any mechanism to force them to renew their skills. I object to that. I think the general public objects to that and I object to the Lamb amendment.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Senator Johnson, members of the body, I rise to oppose the Lamb amendment. I do so because I feel like it would be bad policy to totally eliminate the teacher stipends part of this package. At this point we have what I think is somewhat of a compromise proposal looking at on one hand the commitment that many of us in the state feel we should be making toward education in the state with on the