

May 2, 1973

SENATOR F. LEWIS: The first problem that you face is the fact that if you're talking about massive dollars and some of the people that are experts in this can point out that there is no way to provide relief this year of any kind of money simply because you go through a collection process so even if we wanted a State Aid bill at 25, 35, 40%, the revenues to come from that if you're talking about sales and income tax revenue, the collection procedure would have to be started when we set the rates next time and that money would not be available for distribution in school year 73-74 so the first problem that we face is we just don't have the revenues to implement a State Aid plan this year of significant levels of money, the 50 to 60, 70, 80, the 90 as I understand it, so this is the way to do that to start with and we're going to have to do something right now for property and for cost. We have districts that no longer can continue increasing 5, 6 mills every year and the costs are there. Social Security went up one-half percent on every employee this year. You can't do anything about that. I understand you have to pay that as an employer. You don't have a choice on that. The cost of paper is up 28%, this year! As a school, one of the functions generally is that you do use paper and you cannot say, well, we're only going to pay last year's prices for paper, you don't get it at that rate and so you're facing problems and this is a stop gap measure and I admit to that.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Well thank you Senator Lewis, I, I'm always afraid of stop gap measures. We have the same problem on revenue sharing, at least in some communities I know, mine particularly, where it's being used to reduce or keep down the general fund or even reduce tax. Now these things are going to end. I think the people of this State that I have talked to and I have talked to a lot of them and I have not had a single dissenting voice, wants property tax relief and I believe that we, that they want property tax relief for sure and certain and rather than, even if we have to wait another year, even if we can't put it into effect for another year, I'd rather see us raise \$85,000,000 beginning the fiscal year of 1974-5 and, and get something done constructively and really done than to use stop gap measures which may or may not be renewed in the future.

CLERK: Motion on the desk, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Clerk will read.

CLERK: I move the previous question. Signed Senator Fowler.

SPEAKER: Previous question has been called for. Do I see 5 hands? Yes there are 5 hands. Before I put this to a vote, I would like to announce the--we have some visitors in the chamber in the South Balcony, 19 Eighth Grade students from Blessed Sacrament School, that is in Se--the school is in Senator Fowler's district and 64 Fourth and Fifth Grade students from Bellevue Public School in Senator Frank Lewis' district. They are in the North Balcony. The question is, shall the debate cease? All those in favor vote aye. Those opposed vote no. Clerk will record.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate.

SPEAKER: Debate is ceased. Senator Lewis, you may close.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I'll try to make this brief. There's about three or four points that should be made. The most important one is; there is nothing incompatible with \$20,000,000 of funding this year with a State Aid bill that you want to pass for \$85,000,000 next time. This provides