

January 18, 1974

SENATOR DICKINSON: There's been lots of eminence and the normal amount of confusion on the floor and I don't know if I've got this straight or not, but this still does as is the original bill, pay for all transportation does it not, or' does it preclude from under the four miles. They get paid' from the time they leave their door.

SENATOR KENNEDY: If they were a mile or if they were 150 miles there is no limitation of a mile or 150, it's open so that everyone is treated equal..

SENATOR DICKINSON: Well in Senator Lewis's comments he was talking about need. There is nothing here though based on need is there? It is my understanding, Senator Lewis, is this..

SENATOR KENNEDY: No..no..ther's no.

SENATOR DICKINSON: It seems to me that funds going to help these types of youngsters be better off going to help the youngsters rather than putting checks in peoples pockets I'm opposed to..perhaps I should be opposing the bill. I'm not sure rather than this amendment. The normal public school children do get transportation guaranteed. Elementary children if they live beyond 4 miles from school. Those within 4 miles do not get any. It seems to me that there should be some responsibility left with parents, unless there is a real need. And then perhaps they should be helped. But the assumption seems to be here, and I know I'm treading on thin ice, because this is like preaching against God and motherhood, but many parents of these types children are not necessarily economically deprived and can very well afford to transport their children that first 4 miles, and that is the way it ought to be left. And if the need is there, the need should be shown and then paid accordingly.

PRESIDENT: Standby Senator Dickinson for just a moment please. Will you yield the floor? Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: I was to respond to Senator Dickinson's question. Number one he's correct, the bill is from door to door. But I would remind you of a couple of things. First of all, transportation that we furnish whether the people live over 4 miles or not, is not determined by economic conditions. If you live over that and in that category you go. The second thing is addressing economic issued for these children certainly the cost to the parents is extremely high in the services they must provide for children who are handicapped. And certainly it's an economic

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drain. And what's simply saying is here is way to provide education for these children. It's not a simple method of putting a kid on a bus and taking the kid to school. The kid may need to go out of an area where he cannot be provided service. We do not have the programs that we need in each of these schools so that a child from Plattsmouth may have to go in to Omaha.

SENATOR DICKINSON: I understand that Senator Lewis, and I agree with that 100%. So if they have to travel beyond the 4 miles, I'm in favor of paying the mileage. I'm talking about the first 4 miles. And I'm talking about paying that on the basis of need. It would seem to me to be quite realistic.