

February 28, 1974

(Begin Belt #9)

throughout, I would hope we could adopt the amendment as it was offered, advance the bill and then bracket on Final Reading until everybody has had a chance to really go through and understand the effect as it is offered.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes, we're debating the Whitney amendment to the Warner amendment to LB772.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, if the senators of the Body would listen for a just few minutes and those on the sidelines talking so loud, I spend four years in education. I know a little bit about it, not too much. I went around and I talked to several of the senators. And I don't think there are probably five senators on the floor of the Legislature that thoroughly understand the relationship between assumed needs, mill levys, qualifications, equalization and foundation and everything. I was going to have... I talked to Senator Warner and I was going to have him to try and explain it. But to explain it from Senator Warner would be to say that Senator Warner in his amendment, what he is doing, is help those schools who have a low per-pupil cost, a low evaluation and Senator Whitney speaks very well. Senator Whitney knows this like a book. Senator Whitney is speaking for those districts that have a high cost of education and a low mill levy and a high valuation and when you start in to figure out how you're going to do it, you're going to have to arrive at some figure between about \$675 in Omaha and \$2,250 in some other Class 3 schools throughout this state and arrive at a figure whether you believe it's \$1,200, assumed needs, or whether it's \$900, that's the figure you ought to arrive at. And I'll tell you this, I think Senator.....if you can't get Senator Warner don't want to explain it, Class 1 schools that are contracting with Class 3 schools on assumed needs where it's \$2,500, the Class 3 is picking up an awful lot of money. I think, I don't know, maybe Senator Warner can explain it or maybe you can go down, I know the people that work with Senator Warner know the reasons and understand it all. To say that Senator Whitney is wrong would be absolutely a lie. Senator Whitney is so right for those schools who have a high per-pupil cost. Senator Warner is right for the others. And in between sits the rest of you people that are going to have to understand what you want to do and go ahead and do it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richard Lewis. Then Senator Anderson. We're still debating the Whitney amendment to the Warner amendment.

SENATOR RICHARD LEWIS: Well, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I would certainly concur with Senator Keyes that this formula bit is a hazy area and I'm sure I'm guilty as any and probably more guilty than most. I don't understand the allocations as they are set out here but I do understand dollars and cents especially when I have to pay them. And I would like to support Senator Whitney's amendment. I think that for my particular area and I've got to think of those first, this particular amendment would give more relief to that area than any other proposal. So I would like to endorse that amendment.

PRESIDENT: Before I recognize Senator Anderson, I wonder if Speaker Proud would come forward. Speaker Proud, would you come forward? Now, Senator Anderson. Then Senator Maresh.