

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Yes.

SENATOR MARSH: Do I correctly understand, Senator Lewis, that you do favor state aid to education?

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: I certainly do.

SENATOR MARSH: On the other hand, do you believe the Governor when he states that \$20 million of the \$55 million planned for this next year depends on the passage of LB984? Or do you not believe the Governor when he makes this statement?

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Well, it's really immaterial to me what the Governor says about it. The bill is passed over here. First of all, I think that if that's true and if that's your, if that's the reasoning behind it, I'd suggest maybe there's the independence there's necessary in this Body. I think that the bill with LB984, without the limits, is an acceptable practice. As you recall, when the Governor came out with his proposal last year, when he asked \$20 million to go into straight foundation aid, I appeared before the Education Committee and vehemently opposed that bill and I still do. When he came out with a limit that came out to about 4.8% before that Education Committee, I opposed that. Now, I'm in favor of state aid and I'm in favor of a fair distribution and I think we're working towards that end. And I think the limitation clutters it up and I think it ought to be eliminated.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Lewis, have you already ascertained that you have 30 favorable votes so that you can override the expected governmental veto?

SENATOR LEWIS: I certainly don't but I would ask you with that limit on there, have you made the same ascertainment? I guess that's the word.

PRESIDENT: Senator Whitney, then Carpenter, DeCamp, Warner and Nore. Discussing the Frank Lewis amendment.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, I'm going to vote in favor of Senator Lewis' amendment...his motion. If we have a maximum, it soon becomes a minimum. We found that out when we had our first state aid bill. We did have a maximum at that time of an 8% increase as I recall and soon thereafter we took it off. It didn't work. Why didn't it work? Because many schools had problems that came out that they in order to do a proper job of educating the people, they had to increase the expenditures more than 8%. Now, I know this goes up a little higher than that but the rate of inflation is much higher today than when we had that first state aid bill. And so we discover that we have so many problems coming up within individual school districts that you can't do it. Now, if we had \$125 million in this bill instead of \$55 million, which this is referring to, then we'd have to have limits. Because any school district that would get from 75% to 84% of its operational costs paid by the state which is in LB772, those school boards would be able to afford to spend a lot of money. And, however, those school districts that are only going to get 20%, why they don't need a lid. And so I'd say in this case where we only have \$55 million, no school is going to get more than 50% of its operational costs, I don't believe, and therefore we don't need a lid on it under those circumstances. And since I believe in local control, I believe we should not have a lid so long as no school district gets more than 50% of its operational costs paid for by the state.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Carpenter. Speaking on the Frank Lewis amendment.