

March 26, 1974

Senator Maresh, that the computer run that you're using, two things about it. One is that is as if the bill was in effect this year and it does not by doing that, using that, you do not have the ability, of course, to look what property taxes you will be paying two years from now when the bill will be fully in effect. And I'm sure you'll find a significant difference in that mill levy that you're talking about in many of your schools.

SENATOR MARESH: Another question, Senator Warner. Mr. President, if I may? Why can't we come out with a bill that will specify that no school district shall pay more than 25 mills like I proposed last year? Wouldn't that be equalization of taxes if we say that no school shall have to bear more than 25 mills and if they wish to go higher on their personal property tax, then that would be up to the school district.

SENATOR WARNER: As I indicated to you a number of times, Senator Maresh, certainly you would be free to attempt such legislation. I don't know that you introduced a bill to do that. But the problem that you have with across the board, what you're suggesting, is that there are perhaps those schools that are not using maybe for any number of reasons. I have a mill levy that is considerably above that, that is their own choice, not one that the state ought to necessarily subsidize.

SENATOR MARESH: Thank you. Last Friday a group called me to a meeting to Friend and I thought there'd be a lot of large property owners that would be calling for property tax relief but all the people present...in fact, fifteen districts were invited and only nine appeared. So it appears that school boards and superintendents of those districts were not interested in state aid. And so far I've received only one letter and maybe three or four phone calls for the bill and one phone call against the bill. And many people that I visited with told me that rather than to pass a bill like this, they would not...they wish I would not vote for this. And I feel that a lot of these people that did speak up for the bill last Friday told me this is our last chance. We'd better take it, take what we can get but I don't feel that way. I feel that if we cannot get equalization between taxes when the bill...when you...when the people that are sponsoring this bill and pushing for this bill, if they do not want the rule support, then I feel that we'll never get any more in the rule area. So there...before I say that... I oppose the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, Mr. President, this has been a strange afternoon. It's a great deal like a group of people trying to pluck a chicken while it's alive. Then try to get the pin feathers out afterwards. I never heard any more people being represented this afternoon or they are this afternoon. People crying the people, the people, the people. We ought to set that to music. I would say 85% of this state don't have the remotest idea what's in this bill or what it would do. I don't recall anybody except school teachers or educators who contacted me on the bill. You can talk about the renters, for example, Senator Whitney almost had me in tears. We had two bills here. I didn't see him do anything about those bills or anybody else as far as that's concerned. But they only wanted to talk about it.