

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that as Senator Lewis said, there was a hearing on this bill and nobody opposed it. I did not receive a single letter to oppose this bill and just a while ago I visited with former Senator Ross Rasmussen who lobbies for the school board association and asked him how come he was so silent on this bill and he said, well, he has no objection to it. His association does not object to the legislation. He said it is just the school boards fault if they do not charge enough to provide to cover the cost of the check offs, so it seems that there was a public hearing and nobody opposed it and no letters are coming to the committee, so I feel the legislation is okay.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell and then Senator Simon.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I would like to deal just briefly with some of the comments that Senator Dworak brought forth. Senator Dworak mentions that this is one more program that is going to be mandated on the local schools. Well let me say this, that those local schools right now when you talk about the other types of check offs, they provide these kinds of things most gratefully. You know, you have never seen the Community Chest which most school boards and most school administrators, they favor that very much and so what they do is they provide that as a service to the employees, a service. They are providing this service. They also twist arms to make sure that you donate but it is a service to the employees. They provide a number of services that they feel are necessary to be able to get the employees money and these services can range from insurance deductions to other kinds of employee contributions and these are all "services provided to the employee". Well that is exactly what this is too only the difference is that the employee wants this service, not management. The employee wants this service, not just management and what Don Dworak is saying here is, as long as the employee wants it, forget it. It is not important. If management wants it, it is important and therefore, they have the rights instead of the employee to provide this service to the employees. Well that is exactly what we are talking about. We are talking about some comparabilities, some fairness and so forth. If you are going to provide this and maybe this is what we ought to do, Senator Lamb. Maybe what we ought to say is, if the employer, if the employer provides any kind of check off or dues deduction or deductions of any kind as a service to the employee, then he has to provide this service also. Senator Lamb, would you support that kind of proposal? But let's take it out and make it mandatory. If they offer that then it also should be