

April 4, 1979

LB 285

the committee amendments...

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich moves to raise the Call. No objection. The Call is raised. Now the Clerk will read the next amendment.

CLERK: (Read Dworak amendment.) Mr. President, that can be found on page 1205 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I was very disappointed that the other amendment did not pass. Had that other amendment passed we wouldn't have needed to talk about this one but apparently the debate of Senator Lewis and others was very convincing that we need the flexibility to go up if there is a percent of population increase. We absolutely can't live with that limitation. Well if that is true the reverse is also true. If there is a decline in population or if there is a decline in enrollment then it only makes sense that there should be a decline in the budget limitation and that is essentially what this provides for. Now you can't argue economy of scale one way and be inconsistent and not support it the other way. There is absolutely no way you can be on both sides of this. If you really believe that a 1% increase in enrollment regardless of the size of school, absolutely needs to mandate the 1% increase in the lid limit, then the inverse has got to be absolutely as sound and as consistent. If there is a 1% decrease in enrollment or population, then by the same token, by the same logic, by the same arguments, by the same reasoning, there has to be a 1% decrease in the lid limitations. You can't go out and tell the people that it costs more money immediately, acutely if there is growth but, ladies and gentlemen, there is no savings. There is no reduction in expenses. There is no reduction in cost if there is declining enrollment or declining growth. Now I can hear the arguments coming now and I think those arguments are just as sound for a decrease as they are for an increase. Now a lot of you people have just come off the campaign trail and a lot of you for the first time and I think you are well aware of public sentiment and well aware--I don't think people are really concerned about the services that are being provided. I think they relatively understand what inflation is doing to them but what they are really concerned is, we never, never see a reduction or a cutback.