

February 26, 1980

LB 765

So I would oppose Senator Fowler's amendment in a very mild manner.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I'm gratified to see the cautious and conservative nature of Senator Fowler all of a sudden, anticipating problems two and three years down the road. I think one of the positive aspects of a lid or a budget or any type of a restraint is that it forces us to prioritize, and I think that is good. You know, we just cannot have everything we want. Now to suddenly start taking out segments or components before we even begin that prioritization process is not good policy. All programs need to be scrutinized. All spending needs to be scrutinized, not just portions of it. There may well be an extreme problem two years down the road when the federal funds dry up as Senator Fowler predicts, and incidently, several members on this floor predicted two years ago when the bill was initially introduced. Then is the time to approach...then is the time to address those specific problems when it occurs, but not until then, and to start carving out components of the budget, to start carving out components of personnel, of teachers and schools, leaving just a few of the kids left under the restraints of a budget lid, is not good policy. It is not fair, it is not proper and it is not right. We have all classes of needs, not only the preschool, but we have handicapped youngsters throughout the system. We have gifted youngsters. We have average youngsters, and suddenly to take one class and say, you are excluded or you are special, is not good solid, democratic policy. It is a blatant attempt at special interest legislation. We are trying to create a class different than any other youngster and that is wrong in principle and it is wrong in philosophy, and it is the wrong amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Well, Mr. President, this reminds me of a previous debate of the regular session in '78, the special session of '78, when people were talking about spending limits and what was in and what was out. Spending limit was done for political reasons, some of which succeeded, some of which backfired. I think the issue is clear here in terms of Senator Lamb's attempt and Senator Lamb has been consistent about that all the way through on this preschool education in terms that it should be funded at state level. I think Senator Fowler is trying to make it

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