

March 4, 1980

LB 771

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lewis moves to amend the bill. (Read the Lewis amendment as found on page 983 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, let me explain very carefully that I am not altering the dollar level figure recommended by the committee, and I think that is fair. The teachers asked for the Professional Practices Commission in 1967, and they ought to pay for it, and that \$12.50 stays for that. The run and gun battle with the Department of Education over this issue has been substantively this, that when we charge people for the privilege of being certified as teachers, that fee is for the sole purpose of certification and not for computers or not for accreditation visits or any other purpose. That is a function of the state. The function of certification is to see that there is no cost to the state in order to grant the teachers the privilege of having the state authority to teach school. This argument has been ongoing for three years and I have said that to the state department as clearly as I could many occasions, that the dollar figure isn't the important figure. The important figure is to take certification money solely for the purpose of certification. That is the only reason we charge it, and try to use that in terms of other operational funds. That is unacceptable. It is a bad principle, and I think that we need to make it clear that the \$12.50 goes into that fund but is solely for other purpose of certification of the individual teacher. It has nothing to do with computers. It has nothing to do with any other purpose than tell someone in Kearney, Nebraska, they are certified to be an elementary education teacher. They pay the fee, whatever it costs to do the administrative work on it, and I think that is an important concept we need to keep, and I ask the adoption of my amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb and then Senator Koch.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, a question of Senator Lewis, please.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis, do you yield?

SENATOR LEWIS: I certainly do.

SENATOR LAMB: Under the provisions of your amendment, what happens to the other \$12.50?