

March 17, 1980

LB 905

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I wasn't going to say anything but with the charges of manipulation by Senator Newell on the board, first of all, I want to tell you that there has not been a rereferencing on the floor of this Legislature during the term of this Executive Board, primarily because of our attempts to work those issues out of where they can go with committee chairmen. Senator Newell and others were most instrumental in asking the committee last year to send some energy bills to Miscellaneous Subjects and not to the Public Works Committee but I assumed that was because of some manipulations and lobbyists outside that he wanted that done. Those that approached this body with some kind of a halo over their head had better make sure their hands are clean. This issue has become a serious issue only in the minds of some and not on substance because of some other reason. Senator Newell had the perfect prerogative of bringing his case before this Legislature in case he thought it was misreferred. He knows the rules well enough to use that issue. That didn't work and now it is the same old argument that is used by everybody and Senator Carpenter perfected it to the degree and I would recommend that Senator Newell read some of his statements before he starts using that technique. Senator Carpenter used to point to that crow's nest every time he didn't like a bill, heavily lobbied bill, heavily lobbied bill. Most of them are. Some of them are heavily lobbied by bankers. The one tomorrow, lid, is going to be heavily lobbied by teachers. The issue is clear, that the bill was properly referenced in consultation with the chairman of the committee who is elected by this membership. We have debated that issue before. Now I think it is time for us to vote it up or down or if Senator Newell has got 25 votes, that is the approach you ought to take.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak to this?

SENATOR DE CAMP: Question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called for by Senator DeCamp. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? The question is, shall debate cease. Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 6 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carried. Debate ceases, and, Senator DeCamp, you may close.