

April 15, 1981

LB 318

amendment.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, if you...I did pass out the amendment yesterday in my handwriting which you may not be able to read, so if you would like to refer to the Journal, it is the last page of the Journal. It is easy to find, page 1473, the last page of the Journal. And in the original bill the limit on the nonresident tuition was set at 1.25, or one and one-fourth times the per student cost of that school. In other words, if a school was taking students from another district and they, of course, charge tuition, then the maximum cost that their tuition they could charge under the original bill is 1.25. Now the committee in its wisdom decided to strike that language so there is no ceiling, and that is the present law, there is no ceiling on the amount that can be charged. So my amendment would reinstate that language but it would set that price for that tuition, a maximum, at one and three-fourths times the per pupil cost that the school district has. Thinking that the amount should be reasonable, the amount should be not so low that the district is certainly going to lose money, and thinking...and this is really an arbitrary figure, and it is higher than most people who are in favor of this sort of thing would suggest, some people say 1.25, other people said, 1.5 times the per pupil cost. I am putting it  $1 \frac{3}{4}$ , or 1.75 times the per pupil cost because we don't want any district to suffer because they are taking the out-of-district students. However, on the other hand, I do think there should be a ceiling, because we get into some isolated instances where the district seemingly is trying to force consolidation by putting that per pupil... or that tuition cost at an unreasonable level, something on the order of 6 or 7 thousand dollars in some cases. And so the thinking is that there should be some ceiling on there. So that it cannot be an unreasonable amount, the ceiling should not be so low to pose a burden for the district which is taking the students, I am suggesting  $1 \frac{3}{4}$  times the per pupil cost. I think it is reasonable, and I ask that the amendment to the committee amendment be adopted.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, as you know, we held a hearing on LB 319 which was a consolidation of school districts and it wasn't that drastic. But I think that my mail and probably many of your pieces of correspondence numbered