

February 21, 1985

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm going to vote against this motion and I'll tell you why. The deadline for the introduction of bills is long past due. This is not an emergency measure. The Department of Education knew that this was a problem long before today. It did not arise today. If they were so concerned and thought the legislation needed to be introduced why wasn't it done on time? I think we are starting now to open the floodgates again. We've got the floodgates wide enough the way it is. It would appear to me that it is very untimely, not that I am against the proposal or what the proposal proclaims to do, but it is the principle upon which the method is being used. I think we better stop it before it gets started. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Any further discussion on the bill? Senator Vickers, do you wish to close, please, on your motion?

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Only to indicate, in response to Senator Carsten, that this is a subject, as Senator Carsten indicated, that has been before us a number of times for a long period of time, perhaps it is because we had a few other things going on with the implementation of 994 from last year. The Department was very busy with that. My office was very busy with it. Quite frankly we didn't realize how much of an increase was going to be coming in this year as far as the total costs are concerned. When we saw the increases that were being asked for, the percentage of increases by various school districts in this state, it became very apparent that we better start trying to develop some mechanisms to help hold down the cost. It is not easy to do that. As a matter of fact it is very, very difficult to do that. I'm not sure that the final draft that we've...the draft that we've got now is in bill form is really the total way to do it, but it is at least a logical beginning point. But it was very difficult to get to that beginning point. It did take a considerable amount of time, discussion among a lot of folks in order to get to this point. Senator Carsten is on the Appropriations Committee. I'm sure he understands and recognizes the difficulty in trying to come up with the funds to provide for this particular service, as with other services of government. I can only tell you that there are some school districts in this state that are asking, this