

March 12, 1975

September 1st, 1975 to September 1st, 1979, four additional years. There was an additional proviso, that being, in cases where a hardship would be presented that that teacher could petition the State Board for further consideration due to this hardship. Now my concern is also for these teachers and I do not wish to place an undue hardship on them. I know that we have many qualified teachers that teach in the Class I schools but I also have a concern, myself, and that is for the children in the state that are being instructed in Class I schools. While other children in the same grades throughout this state are being instructed with teachers or by teachers with a baccalaureate degree, I feel to a certain extent these students in Class I schools are being discriminated against in having some teachers that do not have these full qualifications. I feel that with the enactment of LB 122 we will improve standards in the teaching profession. In doing this, I feel that the public will benefit. More importantly, I feel that the children in the Class I schools will derive the greatest benefit. I have circulated and I wish that you would look at it at the present time a two year...or some material that has been provided by the State Department of Education providing us with information on a two year emergency certificates. If you will refer to this, you will see that in the years 1967 and 1968 the state issued 3407 of these certificates. In 1974 and 75, this figure has reduced to five hundred and fifty-six. I would also make a point that over the four year period, 1971 to 1975, there has been a reduction from 1419 of these certificates to 556. The point I am attempting to make is that if this bill is enacted, during the four year period, 1974 to 1979, this figure will be reduced even further leaving very few numbers without full qualifications for a baccalaureate degree. To provide you with some additional figures. There are at the present time 1510 teachers in this state that have rural elementary certificates. Of this 1510, 1013, or approximate two-thirds, have baccalaureate degrees. The remaining 497 do not have degrees but of this amount, 324 have at least three years credits toward their degree. This, then, leaves only 173 with less than three years college education toward a degree. I believe the information I have provided you with is sufficient and I would ask that you join me in passing LB 122 into law notwithstanding the veto of the Governor. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. President, I rise to support Senator Stoney on this particular bill. Let me tell you what we tried to do with the bill. We tried to say that we want to protect every teacher, every individual teacher, and nobody can accuse me of being anti-teacher, I don't think. We said that, number one, that it is up to the State Board, if they set the baccalaureate degree. We are not requiring it here. Remember that. That may not take place now. If they do require it, four years from the effective date when they require it this person must have the baccalaureate by that time, unless there is a hardship and at which time they can go to the State Board and provide a hardship. Now the two people that appeared against that bill was Mr. Don Lennemann, who is on the ESU Board, who has never