

April 9, 1975

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the problem with this bill was, as I see it and I suggested this sort of an approach before. The problem that Senator Swigart wants to get at and some of the others is in regard to contracting bus lines and certainly I think you can make provisions that apply to those who contract. I would think that if there is a safety factor in the schools that we don't need to pass a bill to tell the local officials how many people to put on the bus because I am sure the parents are already telling them that and the specific part of a bill, if you make it that delimiting, that you could put 40 kids on a bus and they got to pick up 41 somewhere, then there is a necessity of purchasing the new bus. I think the amendment that I placed on there does not harm the intention that Senator Swigart had in mind or that anybody had in mind in terms of the contracting services of buses. But the school districts, under my amendment, will regulate...will regulate their own bus situation and I think they are fully capable of doing the same and they would be able to do that in a safe and orderly fashion and I'd move the adoption of my amendment.

SPEAKER: Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: I have a question for Senator Frank Lewis.

SPEAKER: Do you yield, Senator Lewis?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Sure.

SENATOR KENNEDY: A little bit difficult to phrase this question because I am not positive that I know the complete set up. Your amendment would clear my school and selfishly, that would be fine. I know that we have some school districts very close and some probably even in my district that cooperate with the parochial Lutheran public schools and I believe those buses are contracted, possibly. I don't know the background. I know the Plainview operation is a contracted situation. I think out there in that rural area we still might have that problem with your amendment and I don't know how to phrase it except do you know what I am asking is those are contracted buses?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Well, I think if they are contracted they would be included and I am not sure how you would exclude them unless you would put in, and non-profit contracting, but that might open it up a little too far. The think that I was trying to do by it, and again I think there is a lot of concern about this particular bill and there should be, was to make it possible that we do not impose restrictions on a duly elected board of education which can control their own, and as far as answering your question, I guess what I am saying, I don't believe that situation is covered, and I am not sure how to cover it.

SPEAKER: Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Mr. President and fellow members, I am speaking on the amendment, maybe broadly, but at least to the amendment. I feel that local school boards do have the power, if they are contracting or if the parents are contracting, they do have the power to say what they want carried on that bus and, again, we have had this bill before