

February 12, 1976

the major premise, if they can get you to accept the minor premise, then the conclusion is inescapable. You can't argue backward from the conclusion. You have to go to the major premise and make sure that the minor premise is correctly stated in relationship to the major premise or the conclusion may or may not be valid. This morning Senator Lewis has thrown out to you some improper syllogisms. He says that attempts to get aid to education for handicapped children has followed a rough road and he is correct. But if this is such an important issue, why is he willing to sacrifice it for this other thing which he says is being over-emphasized, namely the aid to students at private colleges. It seems to me that priorities ought to be established. If the aid to the handicapped children is the top priority, separate the two issues. If he feels that a majority of the members of the Legislature are in favor of aid to students going to private schools, then there is no problem with getting the bill drafted and having that issue adopted in that form. If there is some doubt about its being accepted then you try to tie it to an issue for which you hope there is such overwhelming support that people will overlook their objection to the coat-tailing item. Each one is very significant. Senator Lewis, if his ship goes down, has nobody to blame but himself. There is a way to deal with these two independently.

Senator Kremer is not here. He always enjoys my illusions to biblical lore. One time there was a profit who was told by God to give a message to some people someplace. He felt that it was such a devastating message that he didn't want to deliver it, his name was Jonah, so he took off for another country. He stowed away on a ship and a great wind came up and the water was lashing the ship about. They thought it was going to sink so they said "somebody is on board who doesn't belong here and the gods are upset with us." So they said "We don't know who this individual is so we're going to draw lots and whoever gets the bad number, he's the one who is the bad guy." So they drew lots and, sure enough, it fell to Jonah. That's where the expression of "Jonah on board" comes from, that item which will cause the sinking of the ship. When they found out it was Jonah they threw him overboard. Just like people don't read the U.S. Constitution properly, they don't read the Bible properly, they say a whale swallowed Jonah. The Bible says a fish. A fish is not a mammal, a whale is. So it couldn't have been a whale if you accept the Bible. A whale did not swallow Jonah, a fish swallowed him.

Now Senator Lewis is piloting a ship through very choppy waters. The ship has a Jonah on board in the form of this amendment. The ship is going to sink. But instead of the Jonah, which is this amendment, being thrown over board and gobbled up by jaws of various descriptions, I'm afraid Senator Lewis is the one who is going to be blamed totally for what has happened. There is a way to separate these two issues and Senator Lewis chooses not to separate them.

I can't say anymore clearly, then I've said already, that I support the aid for handicapped children. I'll support the amendment, to the Constitution, being offered. I am not going to support this provision and there's a political aspect, other than the one Senator Syas mentioned. There