

at that time, they felt that the statute although it should be repealed an amendment should be adopted and placed in statute. Receiving Dr. Campbell's letter of the 18th with the indication that the Board felt that the statute should, in fact, be repealed, I wrote again or had my secretary contact the Commissioner's office asking for a copy of the minutes of the February 17th, 1977 meeting to see whether or not the Board had, in fact, wished to repeal it or amend it. You have attached, if you will refer to the copies I have circulated, the excerpts from the Board's meeting of February 15th, 1977. The motion was made by Mr. Monahan, seconded by Mrs. Lockwood and the amendment that you have before you is thereafter stated. On a roll call vote, there were six in favor of adopting this amendment, only one opposed, and one member not present. Additionally, if you will refer to the material that I have circulated, I have a copy of a petition that has been circulated in the Omaha community by parents of those that are receiving services at the Nebraska School for the Deaf and other interested parties in Omaha. I would just add that at the present time, the bill in its present form, totally repealing the statutes, I think will strike out against those individuals that are being treated in this school where there is not some explicit language that provides for all methods of communication in treating these people with hearing disabilities. I would ask that you support me in returning the bill so that we might attach the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, again I rise to oppose the bill on the basis that again you are writing verbage in in regard to teaching methods and the verbage you are writing in means nothing. Read with me, if you will, the amendment that Senator Stoney wants. "All persons admitted to the Nebraska School for the Deaf shall be taught and trained in the school by the oral lip reading method when feasible," when feasible, which means discretionary, "or such other teaching methods as may lead to total communication." As may lead is discretionary. The language is an appeasement attempt and I am certainly sure that the petition that the Board of Education received in this emotional issue changed their mind in terms of what they were doing. The issue of putting this language in or not putting it in, Senator Simon, to get to my point, means nothing to me because the wording means nothing. The wording means absolutely nothing, and to those who think it means something for them and they are getting something said in statutes that is going to give them some authority, they are not. It means it may be taught as deemed feasible, that may lead to total communication. The problem is, the problem is, that we are dealing with one of one hundred or one hundred and fifty areas of handicapping education and I will guarantee you that there will be others in that want some kind of language to dictate those methods of how they perceive it ought to be taught. What Senator Stoney has offered, and I told Senator Simon that I had made my point and I wasn't going to get involved, but I think it is important to call your attention and particularly to the attention of those people that signed the