

Senator Stoney, Senator Lewis, or myself and avail yourself of the same time that we spent to look a little bit more into the situation. It is not what appears to meet the eye. It is just the tip of the iceberg.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I thought I understood what the issue was until the debate got started. So I would like to ask Senator Frank Lewis a question, since this is your amendment. I am interested in giving the School for the Deaf the flexibility to teach whatever method is most effective to bring deaf children up to the place where they can get by more effectively in society. I look at LB 22. It says that the law shall be repealed, which to me means that this flexibility on teaching then is allowed to the administrators of the School for the Deaf. I can assure you, in the last decade, we spent a lot of money upgrading the School for the Deaf. What does your amendment do to promote flexibility, or can you explain to me why I should vote for yours and not for LB 22 in its present form, if I am interested in flexibility? All I'm trying to do is understand the difference between the two. I thought I had it understood, and once again I'm not certain. That is the reason I rise to ask the question.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would answer that way that certainly LB 22, as it is constituted now, provides flexibility, which is what I wanted to begin with. My judgements and my visits with specialists in the field advise me that the desire of flexibility may be on the part of the Legislature, but it might not be on the part of the school and the administration. So we still left in the flexibility, if you read the amendment, advising them to teach total communication, and make the program as flexible as possible. I wanted 22 exactly the way it is now, but there is a problem, as I have determined it through some pretty good professional people. I'm going to follow up this amendment with a resolution that we study the operation of the School for the Deaf. That will be in by tomorrow, an interim study, this Summer, by the Education Committee. We'll find out what is going on and we'll bring the professionals up. But the judgement I get from a number of people is that the flexibility is not there on the part of the administration, even if we give it to them. That worries me, and that concerns me.

SENATOR MARVEL: May I ask you another question with whatever time I have left? If you're in favor of flexibility, what does your amendment do to promote that?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I believe it gives direction that they provide a total, complete program, as feasible as possible, for total communication which is sign, oral, lip reading, the whole gamut of curriculum instruction in this area.

SENATOR MARVEL: Is this direction in your amendment then?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Yes sir.

SENATOR MARVEL: Okay. Before we vote on this I would ask that the Clerk, once again, read the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.