

March 17, 1981

LB 245

SENATOR CLARK: Debate has ceased. Senator Vickers, do you wish to close?

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and members, I think this issue has been debated quite thoroughly and most people's minds are pretty well made up. I would simply point out a few things, however. In spite of what it might look like, I think Senator Kahle, Senator Lamb, Senator Schmit and myself are heading the same direction, attempting to. Senator Kahle and Senator Schmit both think the federal funds are going to come. If that is the case, then I guess we don't need to worry about just sunsetting it in 1983. If the federal funds come, they will surely come before January the 1st, 1983, and if that is the case, then the provisions of 357 will hold up. 357 was, and certainly they were in support of that at that point in time, they thought we were making a commitment with 357 and I thought so, too. That was the reason I fought the bill at the time. I thought we were making a commitment that depended on some things I didn't think would probably happen but I am willing to say let's wait until January the 1st, 1983 and see if those things in fact do happen. But I will remind the members of this body that that commitment is there. We don't need to start putting money into it to make the commitment. It is in our statutes. It says that we shall and I believe that we will. What we are talking about this morning is very simple. It is very, very simple. Do we put one and a half million dollars into a program that is dependent on some other things happening that we have no control over? And then later on make a decision as to what we are going to do depending on what happens to those things we have no control over, as to whether or not we are going to continue to fund and add more dollars on top of that one and a half million. I, for one, am not in favor of putting one and a half million dollars in a rat hole unless we know the bottom is down there and it is not going to keep dropping down. I want to make sure those provisions are there first. If those provisions are there first, then it is fine with me. We can put fifteen million dollars into it. One final point, thirty million dollars is the figure used as the maximum, as the maximum amount. I believe we should have a very, very good school if we build it by ourselves, if we are in conjunction with other states or if we are in a regional agreement with another state. Whatever the case may be, it should be a good facility and I have a serious doubt that we will ever build a top class first quality facility for thirty million dollars. I really am not much in favor of having a limit that is not realistic but I would urge the body's adoption of this amendment. It was