

April 15, 1981

LB 318

to rise to oppose Senator Lamb's amendment to a bill that I am not very enamored with to start with, much for the same reasons that Senator Koch pointed out. But I think the committee acted in good faith, and I think the committee acted right when they struck those sections from 318. As Senator Koch indicated, we had a very long and emotional hearing on the issue raised by LB 319 in regard to the reorganization of schools in the State of Nebraska, and it seems to me that setting this type of language in the statutes would be just perhaps setting something in the statutes that would put some school districts at an advantage and other school districts at a disadvantage in the whole area of reorganization or in the area of operations, and that, I guess, is my basic feeling about LB 318 in general, but I will discuss the bill when we get to the bill later. But I would urge this body to turn down Senator Lamb's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch, have you closed? Okay, Senator Lamb. I thought...Senator Koch had his light on, but....

SENATOR LAMB: Am I closing, Mr. Chairman?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes, sir.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you. Well, just to comment on some of the comments of Senator Koch and Senator Vickers, the only real argument they made and that was made by Senator Koch, is that these students do not have to go to this particular high school. This is the only valid issue that he raised, and that is true in some cases. However, because of geography, that is not always strictly true in a practical sense because you have a situation where distances are so great that if students are going to another school other than the one that is closest to them, it is a considerable imposition on them. Other than that, they did not give any arguments why the...any valid arguments, in my opinion, as to why this amendment should not be adopted. And I would just repeat that this amendment would merely set a cap, a very generous cap, on the amount of tuition for these nonresident students, a cap of 1.75 times the per pupil cost of the district which is accepting the student. This, I believe, is reasonable. This is a generous amount, and that to have no cap on there leaves the situation such as it is now when there is nothing to keep a school district from attempting to reorganize or to force some of the districts to join with it merely by putting that nonresident tuition at an extremely high level. I urge that the amendment to the committee amendment be adopted.