

April 2, 1992

LB 719

profit from this, at least think kindly in your hearts of those poor souls that live in School District 1 and others, like I do, that again will pay the difference and the cost for this amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, Senator Lynch, as usual, tugs on our heart strings, but not very hard because he recognized the inevitability of the Lamb amendment. I just want to say this that I really am sorry to see Senator Lamb leaving the Legislature. He came in like a lion and he is going out like a true lamb, and, obviously, the benefits of this amendment are so great and so overwhelming that even the loquacious and argumentative Senator Lynch is overwhelmed. I would like to know, and I hope that sometime before this bill is read on Final Reading, perhaps we can get the total impact of the three amendments upon the various school districts. It is always, of course, easy to crank out numbers and I understand the importance of the first amendment to the rural areas which are probably served by this amendment. I understand also, of course, the difference in having the changes made by the school boards rather than by the people, and I am rather familiar with Valentine. I don't think it would be impossible to have a local vote in Valentine, but the one portion of the bill which I think really needs to be identified more clearly is how much income increase from state aid will be afforded to the village...to the school districts of Lexington and of Lincoln and what will be the result to the other school districts. I want to say this that I did not support 1059, but I do support fully funding 1059. I think it is wrong to have promised local subdivisions money and not to live up to it. Now I know our responsibilities are overwhelming, and I know that we have a lot of unexpected expenses. That is always going to happen to us. We have to work with Medicaid expenses. It still does not stop us from starting new programs. We have a whole rash of new programs which we want to begin to fund from a tax on cigarettes. Well, I never smoked a cigarette in my life, but if you want to tax cigarettes, perhaps that is a very good idea. But might it not be better to use some of the revenue from a new tax on cigarettes to fund teachers' salaries, which Senator Lynch is very interested in, or to perhaps try to add some more money to 1059, so that other inequities being present will not be so burdensome to the people. I think it is important that once we make a commitment we try to live up to it. And so when the time

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