

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 18, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m., in the Governor's Reception Room. All members present except Reps. Kennerly, Barrett, Kvaalen and Lund, who were absent.

Senate Bill 271 was discussed. Senator Blaylock, chief sponsor, said the bill called for increases of 13.5% the first year and 11.6% the second year of the biennium, but the Senate reduced it to 10% each year. This is reasonable; each 1% raise means about 1 mill statewide, and each mill brings in \$1.5 million. The variables are the new evaluations and funding sources, among others, and they are not known for sure. He said he would like to keep the statewide deficiency levy within 3-4 mills because he thinks it is unfair to boost it too much without giving taxpayers a choice in the matter, but he has serious problems with placing ceilings on how much people can vote on themselves. He said the 10% level is less than adequate; it is a compromise so it should not be lowered any more.

Maurice Hickey, Lloyd Markell, Bob Stockton, John Campbell and Mrs. Gladys Vance testified as proponents of the bill. Their statements are attached.

In discussion, it was pointed out that while decreasing enrollment makes it possible to reduce the number of teachers, the schools are not being closed and therefore still need their principals and vice-principals. Senator Blaylock said the NEA and AFT are going to have to take the initiative in cutting out the fat in the budgets. There are a lot of things that reduce efficiency in schools and therefore efficacy of education--athletics is a major cause, working students is another.

Rep. Estenson said she sees a trend toward students competing for the education dollar - special or gifted education vs. average students. Mr. Stockton said that in the first special education budgets there might have been unnecessary costs, but that was because the guidelines were new and written in a hurry. They have been revised and some programs eliminated since then.

The Chairperson said the difference between proposals is around \$32 million. Some will turn up from several sources but that leaves \$17 million deficit which amounts to more than 3-4 mills. Also, the Homestead Relief Act will be around \$29 million which is very similar to the difference between his schedules and the Senate Bill schedules we are considering.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

ANN MARY BUSSAULT, Chairperson