

February 17, 1971

PRESIDENT: Move to consideration of LB178.

CLERK: Read title. LB 178

PRESIDENT: Do you want the amendments read?

CLERK: Read amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Simpson.

SENATOR SIMPSON: I move the adoption of the amendments. This new language was brought about because we have had in the past a lot of interest and a lot of pressure that mentally retarded programs should be taken care of. In this interest the money has been appropriated near 100 percent and gone into the Department of Education. In reappropriating this money to school districts and educational service units, they have put it all into one fund and then appropriated it out on a proration level to all kinds of programs and so this is continually brought the amount of money going into the mentally retarded program down, putting the pressure back on the local school districts and ESU and it now is funded from the state level at about 60 percent. There is not really much additional cost in this program, because the money has pretty well been there and I would hope that we could see that if this money isn't appropriated for mentally retarded and the statute says which shall be so much that it shall go to those programs.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Orme.

SENATOR ORME: I'd like to direct a question to Senator Simpson.

PRESIDENT: Senator yield?

SENATOR ORME: I regret I'm not as familiar with the bill as you are, but are you proposing that the proportion the money comes in, is divided or are you proposing that you have the distribution in a 100 percent funding, full funding, regardless.

SENATOR SIMPSON: I'm asking for the full \$400 which it calls for under the statutes in this language would only verify that they should do this, the full funding of the \$400 per pupil.

SENATOR ORME: And this is for the MR? The trainable? What about the educatable?

SENATOR SIMPSON: The educatable is in the other bill. That's 179.

SENATOR ORME: I'm sorry I should have waited for that one.