

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONThe meeting was called to order by Representative Don Crumbaker at
Chairperson3:30 ~~am~~ p.m. on February 7, 1983 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Hensley, who was excused.

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Dale Dennis, State Department of Education
JoAnn Mann, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steve Holsteen, Governor Carlin's office

HB 2174 - School district finance, 1983-84 school year budget limitations, certain increases for teachers' salaries.

Steve Holsteen, representing Governor Carlin's office, appeared in support of HB 2174 and presented the recommendations for FY 1984. The Governor's proposal entails a four year plan of action to avert the crisis we are facing in our primary and secondary education system.

The Governor has become increasingly alarmed by evidence which indicates that our public education system is being eroded as the quantity and high quality of those entering the teaching profession continue to decline. During the past nine years, Kansas Regents' Institutions and four year private schools have experienced more than a 50 percent decline in the number of students completing preparation for teaching certification.

Mr. Holsteen stated that equally as disturbing are studies which report that college-bound seniors in 1980 planning to major in education had lower scores than other colleg-bound seniors in reading, vocabulary and math tests.

Kansas teachers rank 35th nationally in their average salary, with the Kansas average falling \$2,300 below the national average. Mr. Holsteen said that it is impossible to attract new business and new jobs if our system of public and secondary education is below average. Governor Carlin recommends that Kansas embark on a program to raise the salaries to the national average over the next four years. He also recommended that teacher certification requirements and testing be strengthened and that model inservice programs for certified teachers be developed.

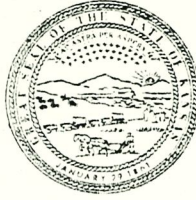
For FY 1984, the Governor proposed that basic budget limits of 104 and 108 percent be enacted with an additional 1.5 percent budget authority available for teachers salaries for those districts which meet the criteria as outlined in HB 2174. These recommendations, taken together, would provide for an average teacher salary increase of 8-9 percent. The Governor further recommended a \$62.2 million increase in general state aid and income tax rebate for FY 1984 to bring state support to USD's to approximately 48 percent.

To fund the critical needs, the Governor again recommended that a severance tax be imposed on the production of oil and gas in Kansas.

A copy of Mr. Holsteen's testimony is attached and made a part of these minutes.
(Attachment A)

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

STATE OF KANSAS



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State Capitol
Topeka 66612

John Carlin *Governor*

Testimony To
House Education
By
Stephen E. Holsteen

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today on behalf of Governor Carlin and to present to you the Administration's school finance recommendations for fiscal year 1984. The Governor's proposals entail a four year plan of action to avert the crisis we are facing in our primary and secondary education system.

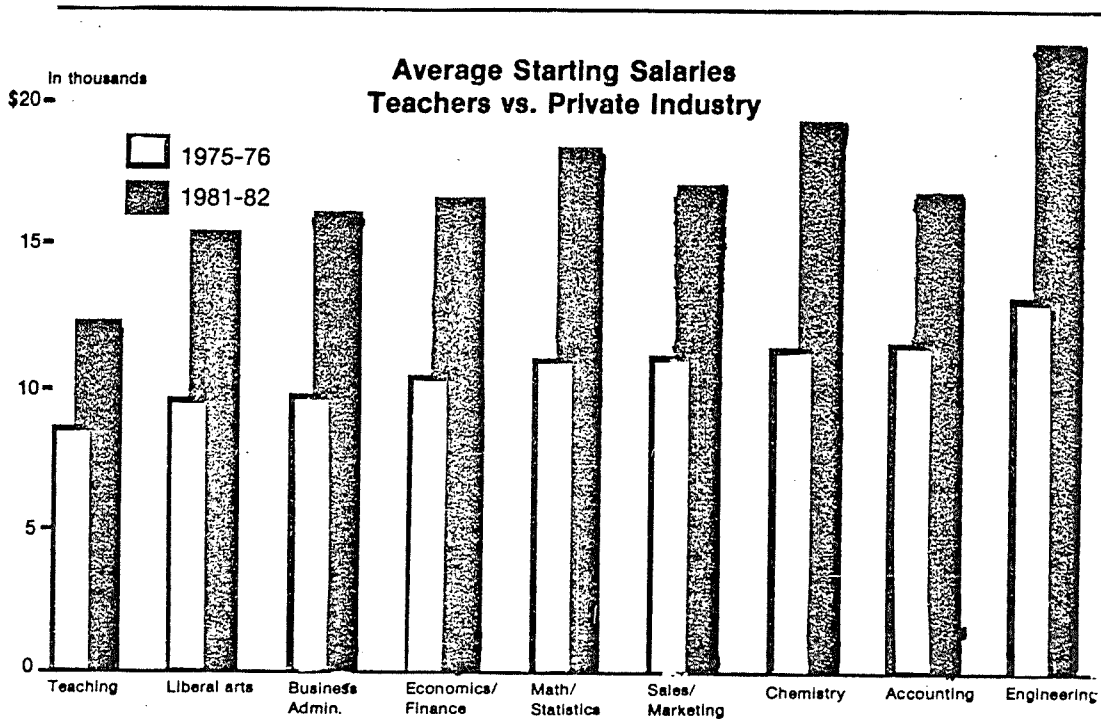
For the past two years, the Governor has stressed the importance of addressing the critical needs we face in education. It is impossible to separate the importance of providing quality education for our youth from the goal of maintaining the high quality of life we enjoy in Kansas. The future social, cultural and economic well-being of Kansas depends upon the preservation and advancement of our educational system.

The Governor has become increasingly alarmed by evidence which indicates that our public education system is being eroded as the quantity and high quality of those entering the teaching profession continue to decline. Over the most recent nine years, Kansas Regents' institutions and four year private schools have experienced more than a 50 percent decline in the number of students completing preparation for teaching certification (See Attachment I). Further, approximately 50 percent of those who do achieve certification are either leaving Kansas for more competitive teacher salaries elsewhere or are leaving the profession altogether.

Equally as disturbing are national studies which report that college-bound seniors in 1980 planning to major in education had lower scores than other college-bound seniors in reading, vocabulary and math tests. This research also shows that six of every ten teachers who plan to stay in the classroom past age thirty are on the lowest rung of the academic scale¹. According to

1 "Labor Relations in Education." The Independent Bi-Weekly Newsletter on Judicial, Legislative, and Administrative Developments in School and College Employees Relations. Volume 8, No. 1. January 3, 1983

a paper by Phillip C. Schlecty and Victor S. Vance as presented to the National Institute of Education, fewer students overall choose teaching today and the profession remains the "least academically able" of the lot -- the best and the brightest are opting for careers other than teaching. They go on to say that, "Until schools become attractive places for the academically able to pursue carrers, it is basically meaningless to discuss issues of selection and retention." The following chart comparing average starting salaries for teachers versus the private industry is included for your information:



We in Kansas have even greater cause to be concerned about our ability to attract and maintain a high quality teaching corps. The education we offer our youth is being threatened by the great disparity in teachers' salaries in Kansas as compared to other states. Kansas teachers rank 35th nationally in their average salary, with the Kansas average falling \$2,300 below the national average. This lower pay is one of the compelling factors in losing those individuals who we desire most to teach our children. The results of this exodus are not difficult to imagine.

Good education is the key to the growth and development of every Kansas child and to the continued prosperity of our entire State. If we are serious about the economic growth of Kansas, then we must be serious in pledging our total support to education. It is impossible to attract new business and new jobs if our system of public and secondary education is below average. To attract new business, we need excellence in education which means our teachers must be of the highest caliber. This demands, of course, that teachers earn a decent and competitive wage. This is why Governor Carlin is recommending that

Kansas embark on a program to raise teachers' salaries in our State to the national average over the next four years. Other measures are equally important if we are to assure quality education for our children. While the Governor believes that teachers should be fairly compensated for their important work, he also recognizes that the public at large demands and deserves the assurance of quality instruction. He is, therefore, also recommending that teacher certification requirements and testing be strengthened and that model inservice programs for certified teachers be developed.

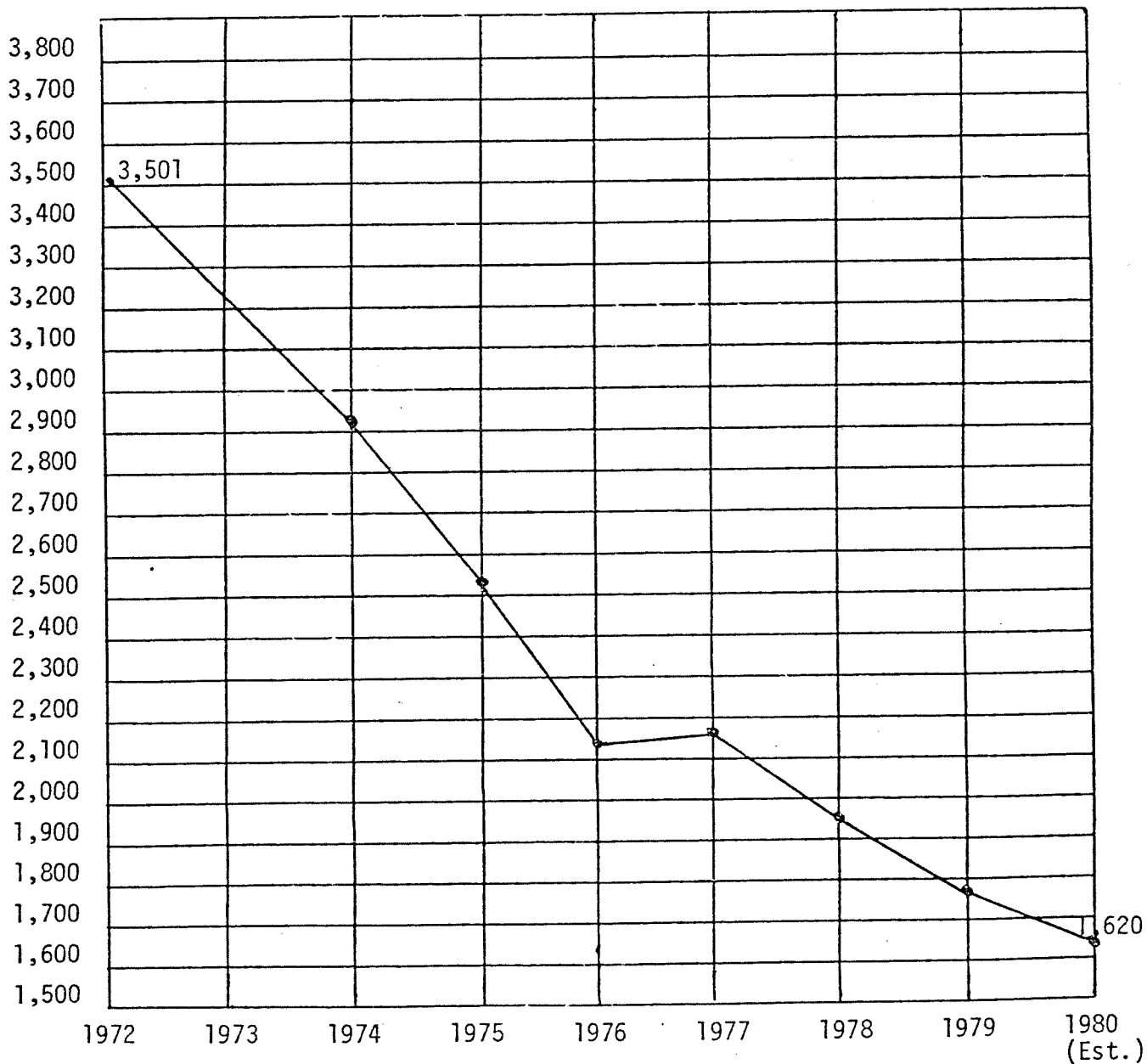
For fiscal year 1984, the Governor proposes that basic budget limits of 104 and 108 percent be enacted with an additional 1.5 percent budget authority available for teachers' salaries for those districts which meet the criteria as outlined in House Bill No. 2174. These recommendations, taken together, will provide for an average teacher salary increase of 8-9 percent. The Governor further recommends a \$62.2 million increase in general state aid and income tax rebate for fiscal year 1984 to bring state support to unified school district's to approximately 48 percent. The Governor believes it is imperative that the State assume a larger share of funding our schools if we are to ensure the quality of our public education system, while at the same time alleviating the disproportionate burden carried by Kansas property taxpayers. He is committed to achieving the goal of 50 percent state support over the next four years. Under the Governor's fiscal year 1984 proposal, approximately \$28.3 million in additional funding will be required from local sources. With the growth in adjusted valuations, however, this would have a negligible impact on mill levies.

To fund the critical needs we face in our education system and in other major areas of state responsibility, the Governor is again recommending that a severance tax be imposed on the production of oil and gas in Kansas. Our State is at a crossroad, and an additional major revenue source is needed if we are to maintain those state services and programs necessary for the well-being of all Kansans. Indications are that the Legislature once again is considering sacrificing quality education to lower budget limits and higher property taxes instead of making the oil and gas industry pay its fair share. When measured against these alternatives, a fair severance tax represents the best and most equitable choice.

If we again this year choose to ignore the approaching crisis in our education system and other critical areas, it will soon be too late to repair the damage. The Governor asks that we join together now to address our problems -- to assure future generations of Kansans their right to the best education possible and to a high quality of life. In so doing, we will also assure the brightest of futures for our State.

Attachment I

COMPOSITE OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS
COMPLETING PREPARATION FOR TEACHING CERTIFICATES
FOR THE FIRST TIME AT ALL REGENTS INSTITUTIONS



(Source: Board of Regents Special Report, November, 1980)