

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Denise Apt at
Chairperson

3:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 12, 1987 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Robert D. Miller and Representative JoAnn Pottorff who were excused

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Thelma Canaday, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Craig Grant, Kansas National Education Association
John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards
Ferman Marsh, Superintendent of Shawnee Heights School, USD #450, representing United School Administrators

Chairman Denise Apt opened the meeting by introducing three constituents from her district, Superintendent Don Bain, and School Board members Dee Singer and Nancy Mechling.

The Chair then opened hearings on HB 2194, School District Equalization act; authorizing deposit of miscellaneous revenues in general fund under certain conditions.

Craig Grant, K-NEA, spoke in support of HB 2194 saying it provides flexibility for boards of education in years appropriations are lapsed by the legislature. (Attachment I)

Representative Anthony Hensley explained HB 2194 further by saying giving school boards the authority to use interest money would allow them to recoup money lost during lapse years. He emphasized interest money is not hidden money.

John Koepke, KASB, gave support to HB 2194 but went on record that his organization remains opposed to using interest money as a budgeting tool for the general fund because of the lack of certainty of how the interest can be used.

Ferman Marsh, speaking for USA, was opposed to HB 2194 and stated three reasons for this stand: 1) there is always a great deal of discussion about interest money each year which creates a false scenario to the public, 2) it leaves the impression that this is a way to address the shortfall by giving more money to the districts, and 3) it is not necessary.

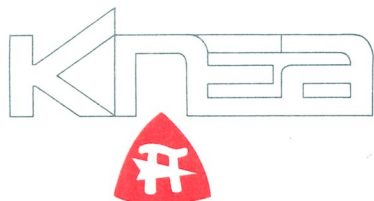
Following a question and answer period the hearings were declared closed.

The minutes of February 3, February 4 and February 5, 1987 were approved as written.

Chairman Apt adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be February 16, 1987 at 3:30 in Room 519-S.

Craig Grant Testimony Before The
House Education Committee
February 12, 1987



Thank you, Madame Chairman. Members of the Committee, my name is Craig Grant and I represent Kansas-NEA. I appreciate this opportunity to talk with the House Education Committee regarding HB 2194.

HB 2194 allows additional flexibility to boards of education in years when appropriations are lapsed by the legislature. Kansas-NEA believes that such flexibility is needed this year or in future years. You will remember that we have long advocated the permissive use of interest in the general fund to help keep down local property taxes. We prevailed on the legislature one year to adopt this flexibility and over 100 school districts utilized its provisions. Returning to this bill, local districts can exercise this discretion depending on the needs of the local area. This might result in direct property tax savings to the patrons of the district next year.

Kansas-NEA supports HB 2194 and hopes that the committee not only passes it but remembers the concept when school finance is discussed for next year. Thank you for listening to the concerns of teachers.

ATTACHMENT I

HOUSE EDUCATION 2/12/87