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FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2004      LB 868

explicit one which has not been there before, and in addition there is an exception if a parent signs a waiver provided by the school system. So the age of truancy becomes 18, but with those exceptions allowed. So I'll stop there. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Stuhr, did Senator Raikes adequately define or give a summary on your amendment? If he did, we will move on. Thank you. We will now move on to discussion of...Mr. Clerk, is that where we're at, Mr. Clerk? We're on the Stuhr amendment. We will now go to discussion of the Stuhr amendment to the committee amendments to LB 868. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I was...I had talked to Senator Redfield about her bill in its original form and let her know that I didn't have any difficulties with what she was trying to do with that high school situation. Then the committee amendment came in that was going to, in my opinion, keep some children from entering school when I thought they should be able to; not enter based on some boon granted by the schools. They say, well, we can let you in but we may not. The current cutoff date for a child being able to get in who is not five when school starts would be October 15. Even though school has started, if that child who is four will be five by October 15, they have to let that child in school. That child must be allowed to enter school. By the committee amendment or Senator Stuhr's, whichever amendment it is, saying that if the child is not five by September 1, he or she cannot get in school. The school has the option of saying maybe so and maybe not. I don't like that part of it at all. My agreement with Senator Redfield was with reference to her bill. If the body adopts what Senator Stuhr and these others are talking about, I'm going to try to kill this bill. That's how serious I am about it. And this is not pique, p-i-q-u-e, where I'm just upset, annoyed, or irritated. I've seen children that I'm concerned about given short shrift by the public schools too much and too often, and I'm not going to stand on this floor and allow an arbitrary date to be set, and it is arbitrary, an arbitrary date set that keeps children out of school. So let's say the child that they want to keep out has...turns five September 2. That child cannot automatically