

February 21, 1979

LB 63

SPEAKER MARVEL: Excuse me, Senator Venditte had his light on first. The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Yes, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, just as matter of information to the members of the Legislature, I currently am teaching in one of the largest high schools in the state of Nebraska, and the subject that I am teaching is Health Education. I find it interesting that the bill is now mandating that certain parts of the mental health...or the Health Education program be taught, and as Senator Murphy had explained earlier, he questioned the validity of this kind of legislation, if, in fact, this kind of material is not already being taught, well I submit to each and every one of you this is being taught. It is a part of my first semester curriculum. We do have a unit on Mental Health...psychosis, neurosis, and the like. We have a unit on cerebral palsy. We have a unit on multiple sclerosis. We have a unit on epilepsy. I don't...I don't understand the intent of this legislation. I find it difficult to believe that we think this kind of subject material is not being taught in the public schools. It is, and I know a number of my colleagues who are teaching Health Education, and their curriculum is almost identical to that of mine. I hope that you would consider this legislation very carefully. I submit again, and I'm being redundant for a purpose, this material is being taught now, not next year. It is not being proposed. It is being taught this very day in the public schools. I feel the legislation is unnecessary, and I think it will be a burden on this Legislature a little bit later on down the line. That is all, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: There are several lights on, but in fairness the Chair will first of all recognize Senator Wesely. Then there is a kill motion on this. Then the Chair will recognize the kill motion. So, Senator Wesely, the floor is yours.

SENATOR WESELY: When I first brought this idea to several of my colleagues to discuss the possibility of introducing LB 63, one of the first people I talked to was Senator Gerald Koch. He told me that what a...it was a good idea, it was a good bill but that wait till it comes to the floor. Well, now I can see that the wisdom of experience has shown its face again, and there's a number of issues that have been raised since during this legislation that I think need to be addressed, and I think that there are answers for those questions that will satisfy the members of this body. The first is a question of cost. That was raised by Senator Cope