

March 6, 1979

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SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Chambers, for what reason do you rise?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, that whole thing went by me so fast and I was talking to Senator Pirsch about the issue itself. Senator Koch, I thought you were about to open and that is why I didn't have my light on because I did want to comment on this amendment and I think everybody would know that I would want to comment on it. So if your ruling is that his close, you did announce it was a closing and he has closed, then I won't ask to speak.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Koch, do you object to Senator Chambers speaking?

SENATOR KOCH: I have no objection.

SENATOR NICHOL: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and members of the Legislature, if there had been some extended discussion, I wouldn't even do this because I would have had a chance to hear what was going on. But what I hope you will listen to now very carefully is what I am going to say that relates to the bill itself, the amendment itself. With the adoption of this type of legislation, not just the amendment, the state has taken the position that the welfare of the children in this state necessitates the requirement that they be immunized. Now that is the principle on which this kind of legislation is premised. Either that is valid or it is not. Legislatively, the question is no longer open unless you pass an amendment to nullify this entire section which is not before us so the legislative position and policy is that children in public schools should be immunized. Now you have added something to that which makes the bill somewhat freakish. It is saying that certain children because of the attitudes of their parents should not be immunized. You might concede, yes, it is in the best interest of this child and the other children in school, but because of the attitude of the parents, there will be no immunization. What you ought to do then, if you are going to allow these types of exceptions is totally scrap this immunization program as a mandated requirement. You right now are making it a condition which must be met before a child can be allowed to go to school. If one parent is allowed because of what ever attitudes to have his or her child exempted, make that available for every parent's child, in which case the legislation is not directed to the welfare of the child but to the attitude of the parents. If this is a parents