

March 20, 1979

LB 59

it sometimes is to kill a bill in this body. I believe that the arguments made at the time that LB 63 was killed are still valid and that is that this bill which is now this Chambers amendment is mandating more things that the local school board should do, a state mandate. The other argument is that many schools are already doing this, that on their own they recognize the importance of it. I do not argue with the importance of the education in these areas. I am merely saying that the local school districts have this option already and that state mandating is not necessary. I have letters from superintendents and I will read just the statement by one of them in regard to LB 63. He says the bill is not needed. Most schools now teach the subject. One of the major strengths of Nebraska education is that they have kept curriculum out of state law. The past few years there has been a movement to put curriculum in the law. I think such movement is poor. Mr. Chairman, I urge that this amendment not be adopted to LB 59.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Labeledz and then Senator Chambers. Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Senator Chambers a question if he would yield.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: In your amendment you say "given the authority for instructing the pupil in a comprehensive health education program which shall include instruction" and then you go on to say, "on development disabilities and the prevention thereof"; and I would like to ask you if that would also include any instruction or discussion on abortion?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Labeledz, if you want to add an item to it you can but it wouldn't necessarily be involved in this amendment.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Well with the "and prevention thereof" concerns me.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well you could offer... See what we are dealing with here is a situation where certain subjects that ought to be touched on in the schools are not. Now if you had a total program of health education anything that related to health should be included in that comprehensive program but obviously some things are not.

1763