

March 26, 1980

LB 1002

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. President. Would the Clerk please read the amendment? I don't think I had it printed in the Journal. Did I?

CLERK: No, sir, you did not. Senator Koch's amendment reads as follows: (Read Koch amendment as found on page 1520 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. What this amendment proposes to do is, as you well know, that we do have a number of people in the State of Nebraska at all age levels, a rather significant, I was rather surprised, that have not completed their general equivalency diploma which is equivalent of a high school diploma and recently federal funds have seriously changed in terms of how they can be used at a local level. The new guidelines of the federal funds that come to state for this kind of program now say that 80% of those monies must go for the number of adults who have an education which is less than the ninth grade level. Prior to that time the Department of Education in that division had some flexibility. They could use that money for those adults who were primarily somewhere between the ninth grade completion point and beyond. Now as a result of this, this places some constraints. Now there is another factor that has entered into this. With the advent of the limitations we placed upon the public schools in the State of Nebraska, and I hope the Governor is listening to this along with others, these schools are starting to cut what we call basic adult education continuing programs because they are starting to have to use their money, their own money, to a greater degree simply because the federal guidelines have changed and one example and I can give you a number of others is Nebraska City completely cut the program simply because they were under a zero lid and you are going to see this phenomena occurring more and more. I would remind you that the completion of a high school diploma is important to a great number of people not only in the sense of pride but also in a sense of an opportunity to gain employment which is equal to their skills and I would also remind you that this \$60,000 is not going to break the budget. It was brought to my attention by the chairman of the committee that this amount of money was not presented to the committee so therefore they cannot, and I respect them for this, make determinations on budgets for those kinds of things that have not been requested nor put before the committee for their due consideration. Presently in the State of Nebraska we have correspondence courses going on and programs for a little over two hundred enrollees but the