

March 26, 1980

LB 1002

you care to elaborate in terms of how you think that under this particular amendment we are going to be able to mandate or begin to mandate to public schools that they go along with this consideration?

SENATOR KOCH: Well, Senator Simon, it is my understanding of Senator Murphy's amendment that he is directing the Department of Education along with the Division of Alcoholism that they shall develop programs that can be offered in the public schools in the State of Nebraska to try to deal with this issue and we know it is with us whether we like it or not and I'm not saying, as least as I interpret it, that each school system will be mandated to do it but I am certain that schools are sensitive enough to the issue that were the program developed by these two agencies that they would avail themselves of the opportunity to take advantage of it.

SENATOR SIMON: I would hope so, Senator Koch, but it has come to my attention and I will have to admit I don't have it by first hand information because I have not talked with the Superintendent of Schools from Omaha but I will use that example because it was brought to our attention. Senator Murphy, I know that you are familiar with this and that is that the school system in Omaha has been reluctant in the past to get involved in this issue and they have not really taken an aggressive campaign towards dealing with education of the public school students in Omaha in the area of alcoholism and alcohol abuse and I think that the teenage level is too late and that is why I applaud your amendment. I applaud Senator Murphy but again I wish that there was, perhaps Senator Murphy, you are creative enough, maybe we can come up with another bill because I would like to see it mandated. We had the bill in the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee and somewhere we went askew. You and I goofed because we didn't get that thing out but I'm just afraid that even though we told the...at the state level the state board to do it that that pressure is not going to be felt back home in Omaha or Ogallala or Scottsbluff or wherever and that I think it needs to be. I think it needs to be so I do support the Koch amendment. It I think helps clarify things but again, I think that we can even tighten this up even more.

PRESIDENT: All right, speaking to the Koch amendment, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, again this Legislature is sending the message. Teenage drinking in Nebraska is not acceptable. It is not an