

has to compete against every other function and every other program in terms of the general fund concept and that means that every program has got to stand on its own two feet. Now it might well be that driver's education could stand on its own two feet and needs no further justification, but by virtue of it being an earmarked fund program, at least under the drivers licenses, it doesn't have to compete quite as strictly as say, it doesn't have to compete, for example, with welfare payments, with general government costs, and right on down the line. So for that reason, I would oppose LB 207. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Koch, would you yield to two or three questions, please?

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch, will you respond?

SENATOR KOCH: Yes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: You stated earlier on that there had been a study made as to whether driver's education should be taught in the schools or by the private sector, could you tell me who made the study?

SENATOR KOCH: The Education Committee.

SENATOR HIGGINS: The Education Committee, and the result of the study was...?

SENATOR KOCH: The result of the study was that we felt that the schools had the major responsibility for this and it should be maintained at the schools. We also felt because of the increase in cost over the past twenty years that we should help the schools that carry on that program rather than cutting it out voluntarily.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Nobody from private enterprise then was involved in the study?

SENATOR KOCH: Well, they had a chance to appear before the committee. We had hearings on it, and for your information, Senator Higgins, there are only three commercial driver's education programs in the State of Nebraska. They are all in Omaha and they have one car, basically. You can't train many kids with one car.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Could you tell me, Senator, where do the cars come from that the school boards are using?