

February 6, 1981

LB 165

procedure. So I would suggest that we oppose the amendment, advance the bill, try it for a year, take a look at it and possibly change it next year. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to support Senator Beutler's amendment. I think that Senator Lamb and Senator Haberman have pointed out several good reasons why it should be supported. Senator Lamb admits that we should treat all pupils the same. This is what this would do. Senator Haberman suggests that maybe we should try it for a year and then there will be other people coming in and maybe we can do something next year. That is exactly what is going to happen if we pass LB 165 without Senator Beutler's amendment. I am surprised that Senator Haberman is not able to understand that he might have some people out there in his district that have been forced to go over into Colorado, or Kansas, and now they are going to be treated as second class pupils, actually, because if they were in a Class VI school, the State of Nebraska is going to be paying half of their tuition. If they are in a Class II or a Class III, I have several of them along the Kansas border, we are not going to. I don't think that is fair. I don't think it is right. This is strictly class legislation that we are dealing with here. By expanding it as Senator Beutler is attempting to do, we are saying that all school pupils in the State of Nebraska are worth the same amount of dollars to the State of Nebraska, provided...provided they have been ordered to attend school in another state by the District Court. I think the language that Senator Beutler is putting in puts the decision in the right spot. I don't think the Department of Education should be the judge and the jury. In the language in line 15 of Senator Beutler's amendment it says, "if it determines such action to be in the best interest of the pupil". I think that is what this body should be concerned with, what is in the best interest of the pupil, not necessarily the best interest of each individual taxpayer someplace. I strongly urge the body's support for the adoption of Senator Beutler's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I admire Senator Beutler's ambition to declassify entities of government and people. However, I would remind him