

improving gifted programs around the state in the small districts I might add to Senator Vicker's remarks as well as the larger districts. For two years in a row now the Education Committee has heard considerable testimony about the importance of beefing up programs for the gifted, for the rural areas as well as for the urban areas, and I think maybe the scope of Senator Lamb's amendment really goes way, way beyond what any of us would like to see in cutting in not only to these vocational programs but other kind of programs as well, and changing some fine tuning and some adjustments that we are attempting to make with the state aid formula in LB 318. And for that reason, I would ask you all to take a hard look at the scope of what he is doing and be very careful before voting in favor of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, if we are going to gut this bill, then we might as well just kill it. You know, the other day we sat here in awe listening to the former Secretary of State, Senator Muskie. I have never seen this group so silent and so enthralled. He was talking about our national defense. He was talking about the economics of the world. He was talking about the needs of this world and he was talking about the productivity of this nation. He was talking about a number of things. Now I submit to you right now....Mr. Speaker, I refuse to talk to people if they are not willing to listen. That is a courtesy I generally try to provide to other members.

SPEAKER MARVEL: (Gavel) We started with the pounding of the gavel when the session started this morning.

SENATOR KOCH: We are talking about vocational education in the State of Nebraska but its implications are far greater than that. You are talking about employment opportunities for youth and today they are the greatest number unemployed. And I submit to you CETA won't get them where they have to be. We are willing to spend millions of dollars for CETA where young people cut grass and sweep streets and do some odd jobs that are never job entry skills. What we are talking about here is trying to provide for at least 90 percent of the students in the State of Nebraska vocational opportunities that some are being denied, that they need. We are not all academicians when we go through high schools. We are not all concerned about academics, but there are many of us that have many aptitudes that relate to other kinds of endeavors which are equally