

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion from Senator Beutler to indefinitely postpone the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I have been to the Education Committee hearings on this bill and I have tried to give a lot of thought, and I have talked to a lot of people about vocational education this last year. I am doing some work on a proposition whereby students may be able to get out of high school a little bit earlier and over to the community colleges for some specialized vocational training a lot sooner than they otherwise would. But I have to frankly admit to you that I have had a lot of problems with the idea of extensive vocational education at the secondary school level. Let me try to go through with you some of the thoughts that I have on the subject and some of the problems that came to my mind. First of all we are a republic that is about 200 years old now. During that period of time we rose from nothing to being the industrial giant on this earth. We did that, with the exception of the last ten or fifteen years, without any vocational education whatsoever. We managed that feat without teaching vocational education extensively at our public schools. Theoretically I think that we have to go back to the beginning and take a look at why we are teaching vocational education in the schools. The way we have done it in our country up until the present time, until recent years is that we have relied upon each and every employer to train the people specifically in the work or the jobs that he has. I submit to you that on a theoretical basis, that this may be very likely is the most efficient way economically to do it. It is the most economic because when the person gets there to learn they want that job. Whereas opposed for example in the schools, they may take some specialized course or another and never end up going into that area. It is more efficient secondly because the employer knows exactly, exactly what position he is training the person for. He knows exactly what machines and what equipment the person has to learn to run. Sure the system has its cost. The employer builds that cost into the cost of his product. The person who buys that product pays that cost. That is the third reason why I think it is better for the employer to do it than for the schools to do it. When the schools teach vocational education the cost is borne by all tax payers. By all tax payers. Whereas when the employer teaches the apprentice to do a particular job, the consumers who use that product pay for that education. That is the way it should be because some products take a lot more expense, or are a lot more expensive than others. So I think it is a better system, really. But we are past the