

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...concerning special education. To my surprise, I learned that one out of ten public school children in this state is now participating in a special education program. That is too high. I submit that the availability of special education money has caused some labeling to go on in the movement of children to that program. I think the same will be true if we provide special rewards and special incentives to the vocationally oriented and to the gifted and to the others. We should keep our eye on the ball which simply is to provide a solid basic education program for our youngsters, provide adequate funding and to go from there. I support the kill motion.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to strongly oppose the kill motion and I hope that both Senator Beutler and Senator Vard Johnson will listen carefully to what I have to say. Senator Beutler, it is very well for you to say that community colleges should teach vocational courses. But, Senator Beutler....Senator Beutler, it is all very well to say that you feel our community colleges should be teaching the vocational education, but we do need to be realistic and look at the statistics of the high school graduates in the State of Nebraska. Not all students go to college or to community college, or to a technical course. How many do? Forty-two percent of...are college graduates. I have just called the State Department of Education, so these are very recent figures as of today. That means that fifty-eight percent do not go on for higher education in any quarter but rather move into the work area. This is why I feel it is vitally important that we acknowledge that vocational training has a place and is needed at our high school grade level. When fifty-eight of Nebraska's high school graduates out of a hundred are not going to technical schools, are not going to our four-year institutions of higher learning, but will be moving into the job market, then we are really ducking our head in the sand by saying, this type course ought to be taught in our community technical schools. I think those courses should be taught but not at the exclusion of the high school level. I repeat, we are not doing away with the teaching of economics or history or mathematics, or English. Those are important topics of learning in our high schools, but by the supporting of LB 318 you are not doing away with those what some of you call "the basics". Those too need to be available for our high school students. We need to look at what the facts are, not what we would dream that every high school graduate would go on for additional