

April 15, 1981

LB 318

about today. It is dangerous for us to make assumptions that everyone will go on to Postsecondary Education even in a community college, and Senator Marsh alluded to that a moment ago, because 58 percent of our students do not... they do not. Some do, and for us not to think about this seriously I think is not in the best interests of this state. In 1918 there was a commission which established the cardinal principle of education and they said vocation efficiency should be a part of this. Fifty years later in 1973 there was appointed a national commission on the reform of secondary education which states, and I quote, "Acquisition of occupational accomplishments as one of its goals", and, Senator Remmers, I can't believe you didn't have that in your administrative course of study. And more recently in 1978 by a study of the National Center of Vocational Education 86 percent of the people of this nation said and say it very emphatically that every child should have an opportunity to pursue occupational skills at a high school level. They stated very specifically that the public schools are the place to obtain this original exploration opportunity. I would remind you that LB 318 does not discourage schools. It encourages them. There will be only 8 percent of the public school students today who would not be covered by 318, only 8 percent. That's all, and the figures I can give to you and prove it to you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up.

SENATOR KOCH: I am saying that if you want to be a builder, then build, allow students to take vocational opportunities so they can be a builder. If you want to be a wrecker, then ignore it because we are going to have more wreckers than we are going to be able to handle. Read this latest article here, Lincoln Journal, "Team Urges Corrections Overhaul". We are willing to spend \$14,000 for a person who offends the law to try to rehabilitate them but not one penny for a child to explore to see whether they have an occupational skill or a job skill that they can put to good use for all of us economically and for their own human dignity. I oppose the Beutler kill motion.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler, do you wish to close on your motion?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. I think I have to slow down a little bit because I can feel the anger rising in me with these words elitism. I am the elitist, they say. Four or five times this year in this discussion they called me the elitist, but who is the elitist in this set-up? Think about it a minute. Senator Koch says, we