

A private school does not necessarily have to have a religious tinge to it. So a private school could be a broader designation than parochial. But wait a minute, maybe it couldn't because a parochial school cannot be maintained by tax money, so a parochial school could never be a public school. So I think private is taken in contradistinction to public. Parochial has to be nonpublic because public money cannot be used to support a parochial school. So if a private school is not a public school and a parochial school cannot be a public school, then insofar as neither one is a public school, they are both the same. But not every private school is a parochial school but every parochial school is a private school. Now under this bill the distinction is not being maintained for the purpose of those private schools which are not parochial, but rather for those parochial schools which are also private. So they are saying, as you pointed out, that because of a particular religious point of view they are indicating that they cannot comply with what the laws of the State of Nebraska are without doing violation to whatever it is that they believe. On the other hand, there are religious schools, Catholic, Lutheran and a host of others too numerous to mention at this time which do live within the requirements of the law as it exists now and they don't see it as a violation of their conscience. In most cases if the Supreme Court of the United States were to review a religious issue, they will describe religion for an individual not in the context of an organized religious belief or body, but rather the motivations that direct that particular person's life-style. However, I think when you come to an organization which is organized and structured as such, it would be a different kind of situation and I think when you come to this organized religion, there is a more stringent requirement in determining what constitutes a religion than in the case of an individual.

SENATOR NICHOL: Thank you, Senator Chambers, and in addition to that and in closing, I would just like to say, Mr. Chairman, that I hope that we come in with an amendment having the voucher system included in it, because if we really believe that this is the route we ought to go, then let's really get with it, take the tax money, give it to the student, let them go to the Christian school that they want to, or private school, and we will bleed those public schools to death. They are no good anyway apparently, so let's just give her all away. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Howard Peterson.