

May 22, 1981

LB 472A

superintendents are still here, so I see no problem with it whatsoever. In addition to this, I want to say to you and to Senator Chambers and others, Senator Chambers is a great believer in abolishing the death penalty, and I would say the question is, what if a man were condemned to death row and this Legislature could act in a way in which we might abolish that and save the man's life? That may be an extreme analogy but I think it is applicable right here. And I would also correct the record that these people have been told who have been through the court that they have no alternative but to go to jail, and that is in writing. Now, what we are trying to do is provide time where emotions can die down and where studies can be made, and where this Legislature in a deliberative process can indeed pass a law which is fair. Not only that, but I think that all of us would not be very happy if we thought that we could correct a law and be reasonable without incarcerating certain kinds of people because of a religious belief. We are not without precedent. We do this for the Christian Scientists on so many bills I can't tell you the number, and that has to do with medical treatment. I ask for the adoption of this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the motion before the House is to return to Select File. All in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 13 nays to return the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the bill is returned. The motion now is the adoption of the amendment. Okay, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, I waive my time to Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Thank you, Senator DeCamp. I had my light on on this issue for quite some time and did want to comment before the amendment hopefully is adopted and the bill would be advanced. I think what we have to do is really examine the issue and the heart and the core of this particular issue of what we are talking about. Essentially, we are talking about Christian parents who are asking for the right to educate their children in Christian schools which apply fundamental biblical Christianity in its curriculum and instruction. And why are they asking for this? Well, because they are convinced that much of what public schools are teaching is totally incompatible with their religious beliefs and their faith. Now these are deeply held Christian philosophies and faith