

May 22, 1981

LB 472A

that teacher certification is in the best interests of the children of this state?

SENATOR KOCH: When it comes to public schools I do, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Koch, what is the difference between a child in a public school and a child in a private school? If it's good for one, isn't it good for the other?

SENATOR KOCH: The difference?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, sir. Shouldn't we protect all children equally?

SENATOR KOCH: Well, when have we ever treated them equally? The parents are the people who decide that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Koch, isn't teacher certification a requirement across the board in private and public schools...(interruption).

SENATOR KOCH: It is, in public schools it is and some private schools accept that as a part of the rule.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Isn't it a requirement? Aren't the minimal standards applicable...the Department of Education applicable to private schools now?

SENATOR KOCH: Certain ones with the exception that we are just about to adopt. We are going to ask for a waiver.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Koch, that is why I am asking you, why are some children different than others?

SENATOR KOCH: Ask the parents of those who choose to send their children to those kinds of schools, Senator Beutler. You know my position on this.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler, one minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is your position, Senator Koch, that it is the parents' responsibility and that the state has no responsibility?

SENATOR KOCH: No, I don't approve of that but I have to face the fact of life when I look at the moral majority and others and try to work out a reasonable compromise. That's my job.