

January 11, 1982

LB 472A

SENATOR CLARK: The motion lost. We're back to the original motion, returning it to committee by Senator Koch. Is there any further debate? Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I do want to make a comment with respect to sending the bill back to committee and it is a comment which I do think deals with basic fair play and with the democratic and legislative processes. I have received a number of letters as have all of you with respect to the Christian education issue. Some of the writers when they write me specifically say, "Please support 472A." Other writers when they write me state, "Please free Christian schools from unreasonable state restraints." Other writers when they write say, "Please see that the Education Committee develops a responsible solution to this problem." Now in all honesty I find it somewhat difficult to respond to the writers because I personally think that the Legislature itself is still in the process of developing an appropriate resolution of the Christian school phenomena and because we have so many different measures and thoughts and concepts at various stages of legislative presentation, there is a considerable amount of confusion on the part of the public as to what to support, what to oppose, what position to take and at what point in the debate. Now it strikes me that you and I have been exposed to about a year's worth of discussion and debate on the subject and so too has the public and that what we should do to ensure a fair colloquy, a fair exchange of ideas and to assist in the development of the process is to make certain that virtually every legislative solution to this problem is at one stage and that is the committee stage. We have now heard from several members of the Education Committee all of whom have indicated a tremendous willingness to try to work to a respectable solution of the problem. It seems to me it's at the committee where all of our different measures and all of our different bills ought to be today. The committee ought to have the appropriate public hearing on every measure and every bill at one time. The committee ought to then prepare a solution to give to us so that the public will then know we're talking about one thing and one thing only and this is what the bill looks like and they either oppose it or they support it or they want it to be changed. But everybody then has one thing in common in effect to discuss on this issue as opposed to several different things and the only way that I can think of to get that task accomplished is to take 472A and send that back to the committee where LB 607 presently is, where the committee's bill presently is and where any other solution