

education as an instructor and it is my belief today that schools are going to start cutting these kinds of programs simply because the state has not been treating them in the fashion I believe is important enough so that they can adequately offer programs we are talking about right here. We are already starting to cut, for instance Beatrice cut vocational education last year. You know that as well as I do and Beatrice vocational education should be a viable program because that is a rural community by and large when you get outside of that city limit. So we are saying here is that we are talking about the local finance but I think we are also saying that the Legislature has got to be very candid about this. If we expect the schools to carry out this role and mission, then we are going to have to help with some additional financing to help bring this all about but it doesn't really commit it to us, it is just words if we don't act financially to help support it.

SENATOR NICHOL: Well, if there is no fiscal impact on this, why isn't there, if we are going to help them out financially?

SENATOR KOCH: You know as well as I do, Senator Nichol, you and I have been proponents of state aid to education for a long time, and until this body acts and the Governor is willing to work with us, more and more of the burden is going to fall at the local level and they are going to have to make vertical cuts as well as horizontal cuts in their programs and the children are going to be the losers.

SENATOR NICHOL: Well, I am not fighting with you, Senator Koch. I am just wondering if we are going to pass this bill, then maybe we should have a fiscal bill, an A bill go with it or provide for some of these demands we are making on them.

SENATOR KOCH: I would like to use our present school finance bill to help subsidize this. You know as well as I do we attempt every year.

SENATOR NICHOL: One other thing, did you say that this would not apply to the Christian schools that we have been....?

SENATOR KOCH: Does not apply to the private schools, no, only public. The Constitution says we are responsible for free public education to every child in the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay, thank you, Senator Koch.

SENATOR CLARK: There is an amendment on the desk.