

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vard Johnson would move to amend the bill. (Read Johnson amendment found on page 242, Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I want you to know and Senator Koch to know that I wholeheartedly support the bill and the Education Committee's effort. One of the things the bill does is the bill says that a high school has a thorough and efficient education program if it meets certain standards and the standards require teaching in the following areas of instruction; language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, vocational, physical education and health, music and art. I think those are very solid basics to be offering in high schools but I think if this Legislature is going to establish for the first time a role and mission statement for our public schools that we ought to state that history is to be taught in the high schools and we ought to state that foreign languages, I don't care whether they are Spanish, they are German, they are Greek or Latin or what have you, ought to be in the high schools in our state. It is incredibly important to us in the 1980s that we educate young men and young women who are conversant in our past which is what the teaching of history does and who are conversant in what is happening abroad which is what the development of foreign language skills do, and so long as the Legislature is in the process of establishing a role and mission statement for the public schools, I think we ought to say that a fairly efficient method of education is provided when we at least teach language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, vocational, physical education and health, music and arts, and in addition, we have foreign languages and we have history. My amendment would add history and foreign languages to the bill. I move the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Pirsch on the amendment of Senator Johnson. Senator Cope on the amendment. Senator Koch on the amendment.

SENATOR KOCH: Well, Mr. Chairman, Senator Johnson, language arts is an area of instruction that includes language. Now obviously you want to become more definitive. You are talking about the tongue-tied Americans and I know what you are getting to. At one time when I went through college prep and high school, I had to take two years of language because it was required to get into an accredited college. Well, I can't help that the colleges reduced their standards over the years so they could be bounty hunters and get bodies.