

Now then social studies is also a broad parameter and it deals with history and it deals with political science. It deals with world history, Far East history, philosophy, Russian history, whatever that school can possibly put in there. By state law we already say before you can graduate from a public high school, you must have American history, period. That is one of the few courses we prescribe. So I think it is covered now in a broad way, language arts and social studies cover both of the things you want except you want it to become very definitive and put it in there very specifically.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins, on the amendment.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I am sorry. I was going to speak on the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any further debate on the amendment? If not, Senator Johnson do you wish to close?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I would. Just for a quick closing, Senator Koch may well be absolutely right that social studies will encompass history. It also encompasses political science, economics and cultural relationships and a lot of other things but I do want to make certain that history is actually covered. I don't want any school to be in a position of not offering somewhere along the line good solid courses in history. Senator Koch points out that we have other statutes that specify we must teach American history in our high schools. Since we are coming up with a comprehensive role and mission statement I think history should be included in our role and mission statement. With respect to foreign languages, frankly I would conclude that the expression "language arts" can be interpreted locally to include basic English, basic expression, literature and the like but does not include foreign languages, and as Senator Koch rightfully points out, we have become a tongue-tied nation. We have become a group of people who no longer emphasize the need for understanding foreign languages and it strikes me that every high school in our state ought to at least have some foreign language program so that we don't continue to graduate young men and young women who truly have no sense of our full relationship to the world. This is a serious amendment and I do offer it and I ask your approval.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the adoption of the Johnson amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Once more, have you all voted? Record the Vote.