

I submit that our first responsibility as state legislators, our first responsibility is to ensure quality in our public schools because as our public school goes so go our children. It is for that reason that I totally and wholeheartedly endorse and support LB 338 and I would ask everyone of you in this body to set aside parochial interests, to not overly concern yourselves with the costs, but instead to go with tomorrow....

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have 30 seconds.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ....which is what our children are.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins, do you wish to be heard?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, Mr. President. I thought this bill over during the lunch hour and after listening to Senator Johnson speak and say that money should be of no concern to us because our children are so precious to us and we must look down the road to the future, right now in the county in which I live about 70 percent of our real estate tax goes to education. I am not concerned about that. But if it is our children what we are concerned about, then shouldn't we be advancing a bill today that would put millions of dollars into research for disease, particularly diseases that attack children? In other words, if the argument is going to be if we are going to use children as an excuse for raising taxes, then let's first let them live long enough to go to school. So I don't think that is a very strong argument saying that we will never spend too much money on our children's education. Also as I look at the bill I wonder where they are mandating the different subjects we will teach, we come up with art and music, I think that every child should be exposed to these and I think it would be nice if every school board and every school district across the state can afford to buy musical instruments and teach all these things, but again I think it should be up to the local school boards to decide if they want to offer art, if they want to offer music, if they can afford to offer it. But first let's get the basic fundamentals of education and then go on from there. Thank you, Senators.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch is recognized to close on a motion to advance.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate this opportunity but I possibly should have reconsidered this morning and passed over LB 338 because obviously this body is not too serious about assuming the responsibility as policymakers. Right now there are probably 15 people who are not back, and