

control, let the local school board decide what they want to do, as not only the local school board but the public in general is sick and tired of the Legislature mandating what the school is supposed to do, and I am not going to support this as much as I would like to, because the people are fed up and quite frankly I am fed up with us mandating what the schools will do, the counties will do and the cities will do. We have come to the point to let them make their own decisions. They are elected like we are. They are on the local level and let's let them do it. So I am sorry, Senator Sieck, but I am going to have to oppose you on this bill. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would rise to support Senator Sieck and specifically for exactly the same reason that the other two gentlemen have opposed him. This noon you two men met with Anne Campbell as I did and found out the tremendous cost of the whole mental health area to our public schools. And it appears to me that when we have the knowledge where we could cut down the number of people who are mentally retarded by 50 percent, in other words, instead of representing 10 percent of our school cost, we would cut it to 5 percent, it would appear to me that we ought to give that kind of education in our public schools. We have the knowledge now. There is additional knowledge coming on. We ought to involve whatever we can learn from the medical school. We ought to learn what we can from the nutritional area. Many of us don't really appreciate what happens nutritionally. We need to know what we can do in terms of the problem as far as pregnancy, smoking, and we know there is good evidence that smoking during pregnancy causes mental retardation. And it seems to me that we are missing an opportunity to bring into this world young men and young women who are mentally capable of doing the things that we need to have done in this society.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, Senators, I agree with Senator Haberman. I said just a few minutes ago that I think we should leave the schools in the control of the local school boards. Now I have to vote the other way. I will tell you why. I have a number of teacher acquaintances in Omaha, some of whom have argued at great length with me the values of smoking pot as opposed to drinking. So because