

16 was set and back in the old days it was younger because we needed these young people to go to work out on the farms. I don't believe raising it to 17 is going to really solve that much of a problem. If it does, well then we will raise it to 18, and where do we quit? So I can't see the raising it to the 17, this is going to cause some hardships in a lot of families that the boys can't go out and get a job and go to work. It might even put more people that they will have to be on welfare. In this day and age at 16 years old the youngsters are much smarter. They know a lot more about the world. I would say that they are more capable of making a decision whether they want to stay in school or not. But I guess that is some of the reasons. The other reason is that there is a fiscal impact on this, Senator Beutler, and I feel we should know what it is, especially due to these two schools that you have included in the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I also have reservations about this bill. The theory is great but in actual practice I am afraid it won't work. If there are older students that don't want to go to school, it is really pretty difficult to force them. I would also draw your attention to the fact that the State School Board Association testified in opposition to the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Remmers and then Senator Rumery.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I don't really feel this bill does what I would like to see it do, but I am supporting it. I think it is at least a message in the right direction. My personal experience with the work release type of permits has been that anybody can get them, and the present law says that any child 14 years old, if his services are needed at home, that he can get a work release permit. As it has been used, most anybody can get it and I don't really know how we can tighten it up, but I think it should be. But on the other hand, to think that a 14 year old child's services are needed at home to support the family, I think in this day and age we should be able to find some other way to take care of that family that would not deny this child the opportunity for an education. I think we need to encourage students to stay in school at least until 18 because the job market is not there for untrained young workers. Our high rate of unemployment is definitely among the youth. The jobs simply are not there for them. And maybe they feel they are ready for the world, but I think we ought to do all