

we could to encourage them to stay in school. Now in case you are not aware of what the law does say, well, it simply says a student of that age must be in school 8 hours a week. I think that is too low and I would like to see that raised. But I do support the philosophy in this bill and I may offer some amendments on Select File to tighten it up a little bit. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Beutler a question if I might. I think you partially answered the question a while ago in your opening remarks, but who insists on this bill? Who asked you to introduce it, or is it on your own?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Nobody asked me to introduce the bill. It derives from my experience on the Education Committee.

SENATOR RUMERY: Well, that's very good. I want to support the bill but I wondered why the School Board Association opposed it. Did they give any reason?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The School Board Association, Senator Rumery, I think was concerned about discipline problems in the schools, as best I can remember. I am trying to remember from the testimony at the hearing. Their testimony was not that strong, however. To my knowledge they have not lobbied anybody on the floor or have spoken other than at the public hearing, but they did express some concern about disciplinary problems, I think was their concern.

SENATOR RUMERY: Well, of course, we have those with 5th graders even sometimes....

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR RUMERY:but I think we ought to give this a chance. It seems to me like we ought to do everything we can to keep these kids in school, and if this is a little step that will do that, why I think we ought to try it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am going to vote to advance this bill and keep it alive today but there are completely separate and different reasons than anybody here has enumerated and I would like to make it clear why I am doing it. As Senator Beutler must