

encouraged, no, not mandated, but encouraged to remain in school until that high school diploma is, in fact, in hand. Then that student, our citizens, will be better equipped to take their rightful place in the community in which that individual lives. That individual may then choose to join one of the military services and is a better qualified person to serve his or her country. This is another tool'as I talked about this morning for good. It is a tool to see that more of the young people of our state are encouraged to remain in school until that diploma is in hand. In our fast world of technology we need and the young people following us need all the education that individual can acquire. That individual might, when things get tough, decide to drop out of school not nearly as likely to if the age is 17 which is a more usual age for graduation from high school, rather than the 16. What is magic about that 16? Only that in the State of Nebraska a person may acquire a driving license. That is not even true across the United States. Many foreign countries have the age of 18 as the minimum age for acquiring a driver's license. Let's move in the direction of saying as a state policy, we would like to have the young people of this state remain in school where possible until that person has acquired his or her high school diploma.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have two minutes.

SENATOR MARSH: I urge your support for LB 305.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I supported this legislation as you notice by your book, but I want to put the members of this body on record. Yesterday we dealt with 338. LB 338 was an attempt to bring about minimal standards for the public schools in the State of Nebraska as it relates to course offerings. Now if I were a young lad or a young lady attending a high school and they only offered me the minimum bare bone skeleton of a curriculum where all I could get was four years of English possibly and two years of science on an alternating basis and two years of math which would be basic algebra and geometry and maybe an elementary effort in vocational education and woodworking where you make bookends, I might become very bored with that system. However, if you are in a system and I will use one and not because of personal pride but School District 66 where they offer you a choice of about 245 courses that range anywhere from six years of mathematics to five years of language and several different fields of language to six years of English right down the