

line plus art and a number of other programs, probability of statistics, I might want to stay there to enhance my own educational opportunities. But put me in some of the systems we know in the state today, I may want an early out. Either that or I will stay there because we say, you are going to stay until you are 17 come hell or high water, and then you become disruptive and then you affect others. I am just trying to give both sides of this issue. But I think this body has to be somewhat consistent in how we look at education. So 17 is not wrong. It is probably appropriate today because we know that knowledge is doubling so fast that we will probably none of us ever be completely up to date regardless of how old we are and how much the attempt is made to keep up and keep current. Now one other fact that I want to remind you. Senator Beutler talks about dropouts and certainly there have been dropouts but we have laws in this state on being truant. Now when these children are dropping out then it should be reported that that child is truant and the parent is not following through on the law. But then again it gets down to how strict are we going to enforce the law on being truant because there are some people that just look by it and say, thank God they are gone and we will put them on the dropout roll. So what we want to do, if we want to keep them in there through age 16, then we ought to enforce the truant laws and make certain that child is there every day and not dismissed until he has officially completed the course that he signed up to take. I really want to support age 17 but when I look at like the letter I got the other day from Senator Kahle's District which is my old home town of Campbell, they are down to 32 children in live bodies and there is an effort to be made to organize with Bladen and now they are playing cat and mouse with each other where they are going to go. But I'll bet if you examine the curriculums in those two school systems there wouldn't be much to keep you there beyond two years. If you are bright and you are willing to work you could probably take all of their courses if they had the teachers to give them to you. But I know they alternate on various years for science, math and other courses simply because they can't afford the full time instructors and offer that range of programs. So I just want to make sure you understand the issue. I will still vote to support 17 but I will still guarantee you there will still be dropouts and there may be more of them.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler, do you wish to close on your motion?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think that there has