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LB 208

State Department would take these issues but I still have a problem with one part of it and again I would like to be sure that I am interpreting this correctly if I could direct a question to Senator Koch.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch, will you yield?

SENATOR KOCH: Yes.

SENATOR REMMERS: I only have problem with one part of this, Senator Koch, and that is I think that under this provision even though both schools were accredited there still could be a question of quality.

SENATOR KOCH: Yes.

SENATOR REMMERS: Okay, thank you. That is the only part that I am objecting to in this bill. I feel that the State Department recognizes quality of education by accreditation, and if a school has achieved accreditation, that should be an endorsement of its quality. Then we should no longer have to go to court again to establish what quality is. Now I know there has been some criticism that the State Department isn't doing its job. Now I don't know if that criticism is justified or not. In my experience, the State Department generally has done a pretty good job in this respect, but if that is the problem, why then I think we should address that to the State Department they do a better job of accreditation. But as long as we give them the authority, they have the power to accredit schools, and with accreditation, there are some very important issues involved in accreditation and nonaccreditation. Schools want to be accredited because there are problems if they are not accredited. So I object to the idea that a student in an accredited district can transfer to another accredited district because the program is better in one district than the other. Now if there might be some special needs of that individual, there might be such a thing that one school does a better job of addressing a particular interest that a student might have, now if that were the case, I would have no objection to a transfer so that this student could pick up maybe some special areas that his own district doesn't have. But just to leave it open and say that I don't like the quality of this school district, they are not offering good subjects, their teachers are not qualified, they don't pay their teachers enough and as a result they get poor teachers, the school board doesn't back the administration and as a result they have a poor school, I object to that type of a transfer and I would vote against the bill on that basis only. Thank you.