

to upgrade the vocational educational opportunities of this state, Senator Beutler was one of the first ones to rip it out. Now I submit to you the reason young people drop out of public schools today is because they can see no future. There are not enough courses being offered to take care of the different needs of children. They offer basically in many of our schools today a very narrow curriculum with no alternatives. I can show you some alternatives that some schools have adopted, one of them being the Lincoln Public Schools where they take young people because they have got social problems, they have got economic problems, they have got parental problems, they have got all kinds of problems, and they put them into a system and they recover them at a very high rate. That includes drug problems, you name it, a lot of other problems as well. I can show you a system where on the greater part of Omaha where I live we have an enrollment as high as three hundred and fifty students annually, these are potential dropouts and they recover eighty-five percent of them for diplomas and jobs. Now those are alternatives being offered by certain schools who are seeking to solve a problem and I submit to you if you want to solve the problem of dropouts, then this state has to go on record of doing everything we can to pay the cost of alternative school systems. That will be the solution to the problem. I also will submit to you today that seventy percent of our young people are working. Do you know where they are working? In fast food chain systems. That is where they are working. Some of them need to do this because they have automobiles they need to support or they need to support themselves or other reasons. For us to increase the age to seventeen is absolutely I think folly and we are going to offer the people something which we believe will solve a problem and it will not. Because when a child remains in school at a certain point, they become disruptive. They then disrupt the education of the others who are there for serious business and so as a result many times they will say, let them go. We will not prosecute. Yet they are evading the law when they do not prosecute. All I am saying if they don't prosecute today when a child doesn't stay until they are sixteen, they won't prosecute when he doesn't stay until seventeen. So our role here as policymakers is to help solve the problem of dropouts and that is by offering additional sums of money to the various schools so that they can offer the alternatives and the programs that are needed to help young people stay in school rather than trying to leave that school. I submit to you you go back to the dirty thirties you had the CCC, the Conservation Corp. You had the National Youth Program where they stayed in high school and paid fifteen cents an hour for some menial task that was provided