

some of you have heard from superintendents, and I want to ask you to do this, pass 305 raising it to seventeen for a period of four years. That is one cycle of high school students. Give the age seventeen proposition an opportunity to work through one group of students and let's see what happens. Surely with a dropout rate of twenty percent every little thing that we can do to try to attack the problem is worth a try. You know, the administrators, they come in here and they complain. They don't want to deal with twenty percent of their problem, twenty percent of their job. I can't tell you how nice it would be for me as a lawyer to drop twenty percent of my worst cases. If all of us in our different occupations could forget about the worst twenty percent of our job, I am sure we all would feel a lot more comfortable, life would be a lot easier. But we have got a problem with crime, we have got a problem with welfare, we have got a problem with educating our public to the ever increasing complex technologies of our day and age, and we cannot, we must not say that we are only going to deal with eighty percent of the students. The superintendents, they want to walk away from their problems by letting their problems walk away from them. I want to make again a point that I made on General File. Our compulsory school attendance law right now does not literally force every student to go to school. That law has been enforced in a loose and in a sensible manner. But it is important I believe to make a symbolic statement. I do not mean to suggest that 305 is entirely a symbolic statement but it is in part a very important symbolic statement and the statement is this, that every person in this society is capable of a high school education and that every person in this society should obtain a high school education so that he can live life to the fullest and for the protection of our democratic society. I think that each and every one of you should put the question in personal terms. Do you have any kids yourself that you think should not have a high school education? I have never heard a parent tell me that about their own child. Senator Koch in his remarks admitted that the law is not prosecuted vigorously in this state which reaffirms what I am telling you, that those who believe or argue that this is going to force every kid seventeen and under into the schools, all the disciplinary problems to stay in the schools, that simply wasn't true for sixteen year olds and it will not be true for seventeen year olds. Nonetheless, to some extent 305 is not a symbolic statement but I think that it will, in fact, encourage certain types of kids to stay in school. What types of kids are there? There are those who are emotionally disturbed and disruptive, and with those, we must use special procedures. We