

must have special places for them. We must deal with them on an individual manner. This bill has little or nothing to do with them but there are some kids who enjoy being in school but who get pressure from home to quit school. Their parents are tired of supporting them. Their parents don't understand the value of education. This kind of a law would help that student deal with his home situation. He can say and his parents will be told that the law of the state requires that he stay in school until age seventeen. And then I think that this bill helps address what I consider the most dangerous problem in our schools and that is a rampant materialism which pervades our adult society and which I believe now is becoming more widespread among the young people and that to me is very frightening, because if idealism exists anywhere in society, it should exist among the young. But what kind of values are we encouraging, a new car now is more important than being able to read well? I guess I hope he knows how to read the interest payments he has to make. A new stereo now is more important than gaining an additional vocational skill? Is that the long term kind of thinking that we want to promote in our young? A new TV now is more important than understanding the structure of government? What good is TV news if you have no background with which to interpret the news? A new dress now more important than additional math skills? I doubt it. I think that we need to make a statement about the values of our society and I think we need to make a statement to the young. I think one of the mistakes we made in the Sixties was to say to the young, you determine what is relevant, you determine what is valuable, you set the standards for adult society, and if that isn't backwards I don't know what is. And it is time for adult society to reassert its experience and to reexert the experience of generations before us, and that experience has been that the more education you have the better off you are, and I see no facts that have been presented in the discussion of this bill or that is being presented in the media today that would indicate that this truism is not now true also. So I would ask you to support the compromise to put it into effect for four years, and at the end of that time, the burden will be on me once again to show that the change was a good change, that the change had some effect on the dropout rate, that the change did encourage some superintendents to grab hold of the problem and do their part. We have to solve the problem at all levels at all times when there are adults on welfare, in our corrections systems, but, by golly, we had better start at the beginning, and we had better do the very best we can when they are young, and we had better start in the schools, and the superintendents have their obligation also to begin to help us begin. Thank you.