

things out. It seems every year we pass bill after bill telling them to do this or do that or don't do this or do that. As far as putting this bill in for four years, the Legislature can change, the school can change, the economy can change. I don't believe in hamstringing the schools for four years and then changing the whole thing again. If it is a good idea now, it will be a good idea four years from now. If it is a bad idea now, it will be a bad idea four years from now. So I say this is no compromise, none whatsoever. Why four years? Why not two years, why not eight years, ten years? What is magic about four? What is magic about seventeen? So I say let's leave the schools, let's leave the school age the way it is, defeat the amendment, defeat the bill, and go on from there. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wiitala and then Senator Koch.

SENATOR WIITALA: Members of the body, I rise in opposition to Senator Beutler's amendment and also am in opposition to LB 305. To ask that we put a sunset provision on 305 to me is tantamount to begging the question. If everyone of us to advance one of our bills by putting the sunset provision on it that lasted for four years, we would all have it made in this body. When we take a look at the compulsory age and raising it to age seventeen, I think Senator Goll probably had a point in his remarks where he said that perhaps we should focus more on the role of the parents than on the recalcitrant youth. If we would make it mandatory that parents would drive their children to school and picked them up until age seventeen, I think we might have the disease cured. Now Senator Beutler says that every little thing that we do can help the situation but I am going to maintain that if you raise that age of compulsory education to age seventeen, that it is going to create a bigger mess than it is going to resolve. First of all it is going to cover up the school district's responsibilities to address that child's problem, either in developing a curriculum, giving guidance and counseling, or providing some alternative, and that is my biggest fear and the biggest question I have about compulsory age seventeen. I think we need to look for better alternatives and I am going to maintain that the school districts are able to force children to stay in their school until age seventeen the real issue is not going to be faced and that is why we are going to continue to have a dropout problem regardless of the age that we require students to be in a school. Again I would like to reemphasize the importance of presenting alternative schools for these children, special course, homeroom teachers that are interested in tracking them through their