

where the jobs are going to be. I don't care what you say, and the longer we defer computer literacy, not only for the student but for ourselves, the more ignorant we are going to become. We are going to fall further behind in terms of Japanese, the West Germans, and others, because they know that world. The other day in our hearings we heard Senator Wiitala's bill on foreign languages. Some of you may have read the novel recently called "The Tongue-tied Americans". Why don't we offer foreign language in the public schools? I will tell you why. The cost is too high. Yet we know, militarily, economically, and every other way foreign language could be of great value to this nation, and not only in our national defense but in every other way but there, again, it takes dollars. When we are willing to put dollars where our mouths are, then I guarantee you dropouts will take care of themselves. They will stay there because they know there is indeed an opportunity there of getting skill, whether it be academic, cultural or any other way. They will stay and they will be there and they will be successful. Therefore, I can't accept Senator Beutler's sunset for four years. It will not solve one problem.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vard Johnson and then Senator Rumery.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise to support Senator Beutler's sunset amendment because he offers the amendment in the hopes that the bill will have a greater chance of passage. He recognizes that his bill is fighting an uphill battle. Now why it should fight an uphill battle in a society that is dedicated to education and dedicated to the children is beyond me. This very morning we heard our Chief Justice talk about, talk about the need to provide money for legal service programs. We need to deal with poor folk, said the Chief Justice. I have worked in a legal services program for thirteen years and I have seen poor person after poor person after poor person and one of the common characteristics of the face of poverty in our society today is that a poor person dropped out of school at the age of fifteen, fourteen, sixteen, did not complete an education. Now at the age of twenty-five is living on public assistance, has got two or three children, and says, I don't know what life means, I don't know where I am going to go, and so as a preacher of some sort, I say to that individual there is always a chance to put your life back together, you can go for your general equivalency diploma, you can go into our tech schools, you can go into our colleges, you can take control of your own life and you can do those kind of things. But I shouldn't have to preach that message. That