

message should be preached by us collectively. We should be saying to all of our children and we should be saying to the adults and the parents of our children, we expect those children to be in school through the age of seventeen. We expect those children to learn. We expect those children to become productive members of society. We know, we have enough collective wisdom now to know the importance of education for young people. We know that lives will be twisted and stunted and dwarfed if they do not obtain the education that is necessary to function in today's world. And how we can quibble over age sixteen or over age seventeen is absolutely beyond me because education is at the core. It is absolutely fundamental. Senator Koch suggests, Senator Witala suggests we can offer alternative schools but I can guarantee you that the public education community will not face the pressure of offering alternative education schools and alternative programs unless we tell the education community you must make space available, you must make teaching available, you must make services available to all children including the most troublesome of children, including those who are emotionally disturbed, including those who come from impoverished families, including those who are difficult to educate. You all know the pushout-dropout phenomenon. The pushout-dropout phenomenon is to take a young child who is having a difficult time in the classroom, who is creating a disturbance in the classroom, and only pray for the day when that child turns sixteen and he can drop out with absolute impunity. Is this the kind of society we want to live in? Or do we want to say simply to our parents and to our children and to our educators, our children are to be educated to be productive? We do know from collective wisdom what the needs of our children are. We expect you to do the job, and if you do the job, we will be there with the money, and we will be there with the encouragement, and we will not speak with a divided voice. Harry Truman had behind him in the Oval Office the embroidered statement "If the trumpet be uncertain, who will follow in battle", and is that not true for us in education today. If we cannot speak with a firm and solid voice, who really will care about the quality of life for our children and our young adults and future generations. I care and you care. I say support the Beutler amendment and move the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, members of 'the Legislature, we have heard volumes on both sides of this issue this morning. Seems to me like it has been fairly debated, therefore, I call the question.