

Omaha school administrators used to always refer to these meetings that one would have with a student and an administrator and an aggrieved party and maybe a parent or an attorney as a conference and we were always conferencing. We were never ever having what was truly, in fact, a hearing and after a long period of time of conferencing with students I really concluded that that was just a term I didn't like because I didn't think that really reflected what the nature of the forum was and the forum very simply was we were having a little hearing. We were having a little hearing on what was to be done about the student. The student had a chance to make his views known. The parent had a chance to make his or her view known and the administrator could say, put in his words and the like but it was a bona fide, honest to goodness hearing and conference really is a term that is used by pedagogues to kind of a fancy word for a meeting. Well hearing traditionally is a word used by legislators. I don't think there is anything wrong with that word. I think we ought to continue with the word and I would at this time oppose Senator Goll's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we continue, from Senator Sieck's district we welcome eleven students from Concordia College who are in the social work practice in the upper class, and where are you located now? She didn't show it. Where are you folks located? Okay. It is in the North balcony. And also in the North balcony from Senator Beutler's district, 75 first and second graders from Randolph School. The teacher is Claudia Livers, fifteen sponsors or parents in the North balcony. Will you show us where you are now? The next item of business, Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to Senator Goll's amendment changing the wording of LB 259 from hearing to a conference. During the noon hour in talking to the senators they said, what's the difference between a hearing and a conference? They are almost the same terminology and really not that much is being implied by the word change. I would submit to you, members, that there is a great change being implied by Senator Goll's amendment. When it comes to hearings we understand what a hearing is. A hearing basically is an examination of the evidence. It is opening up the question to research, to analysis. A hearing centers on the question that is at issue. It focuses in on the problem and takes a look at all of its facets, no different than ourselves serving as members of committees in this Legislature. A conference is distinctly different. When we attend conferences as legislators and we listen to issues that are put forward by a conference, we don't listen to all