

cases we have decided in the United States, the state does have the power to establish standards and requirements. For that reason I think....

SENATOR NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR FOWLER: ...that we should maintain the requirement that curriculum be reviewed and that is why I oppose this section of the DeCamp-Peterson amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: As far as I know, Senator DeCamp is the only other one wishing to speak on this particular division. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members, a few minutes ago Senator Beutler gave probably one of the two or three best talks I've ever heard on the floor since I've been here, a very perceptive analysis, just black and white, of what the issue really is. It is a balance, a contest if you would between freedom of religion, constitutional principle over here, and the state's/country's right to maintain a democratic system. And in analyzing it, Senator Beutler gave arguments here and arguments there, but basically he said it is a close question and he comes down on the opposite side on this particular issue. Now I am going to do something here that I haven't talked over with the Christian Schools or anybody else and I'm going to do it because I think it is reasonable. I think it is workable. I'm going to personally go along with Senator Fowler's proposal and to my good friends in the Christian Schools that will say, well you don't have to do that or you shouldn't do that, I simply say, we agreed to do this last year, the curriculum approval and I've got no fears that your curriculum can live up to whatever reasonable standards are imposed. You may remember what we really wanted last year and what was a stricter proposal, was testing of the students. Make these Christian Schools students put up or close up. Make them prove that they know "reading, writing, 'rithmetic" whatever, as well or better than the public school students of comparable grade and age or close down their school. And I guess I thought that was the most reasonable thing in the world. Make us, so to speak, make us prove that we were learning or close up. The Legislature, the education industry basically said, no, we don't want students tested. Okay, we won't have that. We'll accept, or I'm saying I'm accepting on their behalf and I suppose not one in a hundred of them really wants this but I think it is reasonable of accepting this. Let the curriculum be subject to examination and approval. The real issue, the issue that has divided the state and the country over this, has to do with one fine