

Christian Schools in that. I urge you to at least try this and see if it doesn't work for a year or two or three and learn something more on it.

SENATOR NICHOL: Now I am back on the list of the Speaker's as we had them prior to our little diversion there. Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in opposition to the remainder of the DeCamp amendment and I make my presentation, having thoughtfully and even prayerfully considered this issue because I am a true believer in religious freedom. I have spent a lot of hours looking at practices of the nonconformists in our society over the years, being familiar with the great struggle of the Hutterites in South and North Dakota for freedom of religious practices, being quite familiar with the struggle of the Amish in Pennsylvania, in Iowa, in Ohio and Wisconsin for the freedom of religious practices, being familiar with the struggle of the Society of Friends, that is the Quakers in England who were forced to come to our country and establish a society of their own in Pennsylvania. I have in my own heart a tremendous sense for individual religious freedom because in the last analysis one of the great strengths of a society such as ours is the ability of each member to hold a deep and abiding faith and to share that deep and abiding faith with other persons in our society, to be an Evangelist, in effect, for a cause. But as Senator Beutler so rightfully pointed out, we are engaged in a great struggle and the struggle really is between the right of the individual to pursue a matter of conscience on the one hand and the needs of a democratic society to ensure educational quality for all children. It has basically been through education in our society that we have transmitted values generation to generation. It has basically been the cause of education that we have uplifted and elevated the status of western civilization. We can go back to the Greeks and the Greeks were the first members of Western society that said, education is the basic function of the state. The state must be an educator. The state must see that all persons have the knowledge to do right, to pursue the good and to be productive members of society. And as Senator Beutler has rightfully pointed out, the way the State of Nebraska has seen fit to fulfill that obligation is to build a three-legged stool of (a) compulsory education, (b) curriculum review and (c) the use of certified teachers in the classroom. Now this piece of legislation deals finally with the conflict that can arise when a person of deeply held religious conviction and motivation says, what transpires in my classroom is a ministry. I am called by God to conduct my classroom in a certain way and