

I want no state intrusion on who is to be in my classroom and for that reason I will not accept the authority of the state to have in my classroom a teacher, even of my own faith, my own personal beliefs and my own convictions, who has to be a certified teacher. Now let's talk about the whole certification function. What has the State of Nebraska been doing painstakingly year in and year out? What it has been doing is it has been attempting to professionalize and upgrade the quality of offerings in the classroom and it has used the certification process to carry out that function. It has concluded, we, as legislators, have concluded that if we require all people who perform in our classrooms to have a certain pedagogical background to meet certain standards, that we can better assure ourselves that there will be teaching transpiring in the classroom and that the kind of teaching that transpires in the classroom will carry forward this great and noble mission that has infused Western civilization for twenty-five years...

SENATOR NICHOL: Half a minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...with true passion and that is the function of education and the function of learning. Now it seems to me that when the time finally comes and we have on the one side of the scale, individual freedom of conscience and on the other side of the scale, the societal needs to educate our children, that the societal needs in this context must prevail because we must ensure to future generations a strong and solid democratic structure with a well educated citizenry. It is for that reason I do oppose this legislation.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President and members, I do not rise to oppose or to propose this amendment but more for clarification on some of the things that have been said and some questions that I have about this amendment. First of all, we hear from the attorneys always in the Legislature, what is the definition of this and what is the definition of that. Senator Beutler said earlier, how do you define liberty. I define liberty, Senator Beutler, as freedom within the law and I define law as a rule of reason for the common good. I don't know how attorneys define it but that is my definition of it. I read this amendment of Senator DeCamp's and Senator Peterson's and it says, "the lay governing body or organization of parents of a church or religious denomination may file a notice of the right to exercise a waiver of certain school laws and rules and regulations adopted pursuant to such laws if the church or