

March 9, 1982

LB 652

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I have an amendment to the DeCamp amendment that is offered by Senator Koch. (Read Koch amendment as found on page 1062 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I apologize for being late but I have struggled with this issue for seven years. I think that I have probably given more on this piece of legislation than any one in here from an original stance which was three hundred sixty degrees away from where I am today. This morning I met with a group of people talking about collusion and bid rigging and that is why I am late. I will make that a matter of record because obviously someone took something out of context what I said yesterday and believed that I was being bought by some big people. So I lay myself before you this morning. I'm not going to get bought by the Evangelicals and Senator Stoney said it correctly. We misuse the word Christian Schools because it is a very fundamental religion which some of us may not understand. I have given a great deal of my time and effort, so did this committee. They put out a disclaimer but we promised you when we came to the floor we would bring you a bill. The bill basically you have before you is my bill drawn by my assistant Mr. Siefkes who is a former superintendent of schools who believes as much in public education as Gerry Koch does. I am going to give the Evangelical people an opportunity. As far as my vote goes I don't have many votes on this floor. I've watched them lately. They have dissipated. But as chairman of the Education Committee who has worked hours trying to find a compromise, and nothing in education is ever easy. My friends who are professionals like I am, who have got degrees, fortunately someone gave them to us or we worked for them, don't believe we shouldn't allow classrooms to be carried on without certified teachers. Now let me give you a little history. I came out of a school district called District 69 in Campbell, Nebraska. I was thinking on the way down here this morning I had six teachers in seven years and I can remember their names and none of them were certified, none of them, but I can still remember their names, can't I? And I will give you their names if you want me to. Do you know why I knew them so well? Because our farm was a quarter of a mile from that little school. They all stayed with us. They board and roomed with us. So I was fortunate I guess. My Dad was the treasurer of the school board, three member board and they held a caucus and they would hire teachers. What we're doing here today is we're probably going to go back to that day a little bit. We're going to allow the Evangelicals to hold a school and the parents are willing to