

March 9, 1982

LB 652

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Haberman and then Senator Chambers. The question has been called. Do I see five hands please? I do. The question is, shall debate cease. All those in favor signify by voting aye, opposed no. Record please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 9 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR NICHOL: Debate has ceased on the Koch amendment. Senator Koch, did you wish to close?

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a neat proverb that I like very much. Many of us are very bright or consider ourselves to be intelligent. People really don't care how much you know until you show them how much you care. What we're doing here is we're saying to parents, we're going to give you the privilege of placing your child in an educational environment that you think is most appropriate. As I said before I may not agree with those parents but I'm going to give them an opportunity if I can. What we are demonstrating here today is sort of like confession. I'm not Catholic but I guess when they go to see the person in the cloth they confess whatever it is that bothers them and this body today has laid themselves on the line. I'm here to confess to my colleagues and education, school boards, administrators and teachers. I'm not a Benedict Arnold. I'm not going to sell out public education but if we're as intelligent as we say we are and as professional as we are and as empathetic as we are, then we're going to allow parents the right for at least four years to see whether or not this form of education is appropriate and I couldn't be a Christian myself if I didn't allow some people who believe a little differently than I do that privilege. We're putting those people on notice, I want you to understand this bill. We're saying you're going to have a lay board, the lay board is going to ask for certain waivers. They're going to say our teachers are competent. Now the parents go to those boards, whoever they pick, the elders or the trustees or whoever they are and we've all served on those boards, I'm sure. Now when that board asks for those waivers then they are going to be responsible for the kind of education that goes on in that school. There is a responsibility there and there is a caveat for parents. Now what is unreasonable about that? That is why I say this body needs time to see, determine whether or not this educational environment is appropriate for those children. Some of you stood here and said that we're using kids. That's not unusual for politicians. We've used kids for pawns historically. That is what they are. They are on a checkerboard and we play with them. So what we do here today won't be unique in terms of political leadership but as a professional educator and I am very proud of that, I'm going to stand here like Senator Remmers

8522