

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Let me say first of all, we've heard a great deal this morning about teacher certification. I don't know how many of you have studied this question. It so happens that the State Department of Education did do a survey this summer of all the states in this country and I think you should know there are only fourteen states that require certification. So we're really, you know, I think we're in a minority in Nebraska and I'm not sure that we hadn't ought to study that issue rather carefully. I, for one, would say that we certainly aren't doing something that is real exceptional in facing this in this particular amendment to the bill. Number two, I want to say a word about Christian conscience. I don't know how many of you have thought of this particular matter but I thought a great deal about it and one of the reasons why I have made this a priority bill and one of the reasons why I feel that we need to do something on this issue is that I look back to my Lutheran background and at this point I come across the Catholic background and I think of Martin Luther who said that at the time he was in the great debates, he said, "I cannot, I will not repent," and you remember that was because of his Christian conscience. And I would remind those of you who are on this floor who are Protestants in this body, we would have nothing but the Catholic Church if it hadn't been for Martin Luther really expressing his Christian conscience. For that reason it seems to me that we need to be in a position to express our Christian conscience and to let other people do the same thing. And that is the reason why I have been so strong for this particular amendment. I think it speaks to the conscience of each one of us.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the DeCamp-Howard Peterson amendment by striking the word "religious instruction in line 17, page 2 of the amendment and inserting the words "the religious beliefs of the church or denomination."

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, there were two places in the amendment where this language appears and I only picked up one of them in my first amendment and Senator Pirsch pointed out my error and I'm glad that she did. This amendment simply picks up the language and changes it in the second place that it appears in the DeCamp amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: The question has been called for on the Beutler amendment. Five hands please? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate signify by voting aye, opposed nay.