

March 9, 1982

LB 652

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, as I indicated before I think the bill as now written does not make sense either from the point of view of those who would want to change the law or from the point of view of those who don't want to change the law. By taking out the certification requirements for teachers, we are erecting a situation in the State of Nebraska that could have all sorts of ramifications we simply cannot anticipate and we do not understand with the respect not only to Evangelical Schools and Fundamental Schools but also the whole range of private schools that currently have certified teachers in the state but it might be tempted to do away with them as a matter of economics because it is simply cheaper to run a school without certified teachers. And if that happens I think most of us will agree that education in those private schools will deteriorate and that might even lead to a move to get rid of the certification requirements for public schools. Now the reason that the bill as written right now is not going to satisfy the proponents of this legislation is because as I indicated earlier, I can't imagine that these teaching materials that are used in at least some of the Christian Schools around the state are going to meet the curriculum requirements of the State Department of Education which remain in existence in LB 652 as amended. Now these materials here and this booklet I have before me now is called Social Studies, do have a lot of religious statements as you would expect from a Christian School. For instance, following a discussion on the Yom Kippur War on page 9 of this particular pamphlet, the question is posed in respect to the Middle East, "The final events in world history will one day be played out in accordance to the plan of God." Earlier in the booklet they asked the question, "Are the Jews still the chosen people of God?" And these sorts of concepts and these sorts of ideas are woven through their discussion of an interpretation of recent historical events. And I think those need to concern those of us who would prefer that our children go to schools that are not value laden, either from a religious point of view or from a political point of view but I think of even more concern in these materials are a lot of the political value laden concepts. For instance, on page 9 there is discussion of Socialism and Socialists and this statement is made and I'd ask you to listen carefully to what they are saying about Socialists, keeping in mind that a number of the NATO member countries, France, a number of the Scandinavian countries are governed by what they call Socialist regimes and I'm quoting: "Socialists