

March 9, 1982

LB 652

Think back to the days when we used to have that sort of situation and I think that our educational quality has improved markedly as the result of the sort of standards we now have. To change that has to be done with the burden of proof on those who want to change and I don't think they have met that burden of proof and this bill should be killed.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to support Senator Hoagland in his kill motion on LB 652. I think a couple of points need to be made that possibly haven't been made clear enough although there has been an extended debate on this issue. The issue of teacher certification, teacher qualification, if you will, is one that I think this body should not take very lightly because we have had some sorts of minimum state requirements for teachers for years and years, and Senator Wesely mentioned that just very briefly. Senator Koch and Senator Remmers both mentioned this morning that they had attended country schools taught by people that at best weren't certified and that is probably true. I know many, many people that taught right out of high school. They weren't "certified teachers" but they had passed requirements, they had passed the old normal training courses that used to be taught in high school for those teachers. So there was some qualifications. Now if you will read the bill as it is right now, if you will read it as I read it at least, it indicates that if the lay board or the parents certify and attest that the teachers and administrators retained or employed to teach, counsel, supervise, and administer are qualified to do so, in other words they don't have to have any training at all. They could be a kindergarten graduate as a matter of fact and if the individuals say that they are qualified to teach algebra or trigonometry, so be it. Now that is a major, major change that we are making, and if you will look up the statutes, the certification statute, 79-1233, you will notice that the source starts that law as 1925. Now that has been a few years ago I suggest to you and it has served this state pretty well in that length of period of time and we are making a major change here today. I would also point out, Senator Hefner mentioned a little bit ago the work of the Education Committee, and not to take anything away from any members of that committee, but I would suggest to each of you that you watch the board on the vote on Senator Hoagland's kill motion and see how the eight members of the Education Committee vote. See where the majority of the members of the Education Committee are on this issue. If the committee structure means anything to you, to this body, then maybe you should take that