

March 9, 1982

LB 652

Into some consideration. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh. Senator Koch, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I have been Chairman of the Education Committee for a couple, three years, four years so I have seen the body come on the floor, never as a unit, vote their own individual conscience. So I am not surprised how the committee may vote today. As far as certification goes, we are not talking about public schools. We are not going to repeal the certification nor endorsement of teachers in the State of Nebraska who work in the public schools. Someone said a moment ago, we are talking about a minority. I think Senator Wesely did. Yes, we are talking about a minority of people but that is the reason we pass laws oftentimes to provide them with certain privileges, and whether we agree with it or not, we do that. So I want this to be very clear. We are providing to a small group of people a privilege, a parent privilege, to send their children to an environment that they believe is most fitting for them. I may not agree with it but I am here to say I want them to have that privilege at least for four years. At that time the Legislature can determine are these schools indeed providing an appropriate education. Now, there are times I disagreed with my parents as I was growing up. I thought they were not correct but the older I get I sometimes look back and think I am very proud of the fact that my parents gave me some directions once in awhile. They weren't always nondirective, they were very directive, caused me to do some things that I wouldn't have done otherwise. So what this body is doing today when we pass 652 is we are saying to these parents there has been appropriate debate. It is on the record. It is on the tape. We want to advise you that your actions may not be appropriate but at least we are going to provide you the opportunity because I don't believe the law we passed in 1925 is appropriate for today in 1982. If that is the case, we would never need to change any law we passed at one time because it still should be appropriate. Whether you like it or not, we have an issue here before this body in this state that we should deal with I think in a fair manner and those who read polls only then and make actions according to polls, and I have read those polls, but if I made every decision in this body based upon a poll, I wouldn't need to be here because people who answer polls generally answer "yes" or "no", and that is on the basis of some emotion. Now we are going to deal with a bill about March 15, and Senator Chambers is going to promote it, and if you read the polls on that one, there wouldn't be a