

March 9, 1982

LB 652

green vote in here, and that is to abolish the death penalty. So if we want to talk about polls, I remind you to read Don Walton's article about two weeks ago in the Lincoln paper about politicians. Do we mirror an emotion or do we represent what we feel we should do politically and in a statesmanship like manner? For us to argue any more kill motions I think is absolutely not important. We have given this bill its fair hearing, a lot of hours, a lot of debate, and I will admit it has been very fair but, obviously, there is a majority of this body right now believe 652 deserves a chance so I oppose the kill motion. I think we should get on with the business and move the bill across and see if it can work.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I have some concerns about this bill, and if you look at Section 2, it talks about the waivers being granted. It allows the lay board to certify certain things relative to the qualification of teachers, counselors, administrators and whatnot, and by the way, I am having something handed out to you that I intend to comment on during the course of my discussion that ties into the reason I raised that LITTLE BLACK SAMBO and the other related issue this morning, but before I get to that and I would like you to have an opportunity to see that handout, included in it is a very evil racially derogatory story that I wrote, to be derogatory toward white people. I want you to be aware of what it is. But there is nothing in the way of a standard in this bill that talks about how qualified the lay board is to make any of the certifications that it makes relative to the qualifications of others. It doesn't state what this qualified individual will really be qualified to do. By that I mean there is no articulation in the bill of what capabilities, talents or anything else that this supposedly qualified instructor, administrator or teacher would have to have to serve as a teacher. So in the absence of any standards whatsoever, what you are doing is abdicating the total responsibility that the state has to look out for the interest of the children in terms of the education given. That is not a compromise. That is a total abdication of responsibility. Now most of you may have received a copy of the handout that I have given you. I told you how degrading I see this LITTLE BLACK SAMBO story to be. Well, as recently as 1976 the problem arose in Lincoln Public Schools. Some parents had had difficulty with that story. When they talked to teachers and administrators, none of them could see anything wrong with it, and since a racially derogatory epithet directed to a black person didn't offend