

and so this young man began to think about various projects that he could do for the Westinghouse science competition and in talking to a math instructor at Stuyvesant High School, the math instructor began to talk to him a little bit about the number theory and he said, you know, nothing has been written on the theory of twin primes since the 19th century. So the boy began to think and work and he spent nine months at this. He became a soul on fire, a soul on fire for a project and this fifteen year old lad has developed a working hypothesis for the location of twin primes in our numbering system. Now I say to you that that spark, that inspiration is the very act of teaching and it occurs simply speaking when we place in our classrooms people dedicated to the profession and occupation of teaching and the way this state has traditionally insisted that that be done is to take persons who want to be our teachers, require them to acquire some learning, require them to take courses in teaching, require them to have a practicum experience and then grant them a certificate so that they can go and they can use their training and they can develop the very best in our intellectual lives. And I think it is important that you and I as a society, that you and I as a state, insist that that high commitment and that standard be maintained in every classroom in this state irrespective of where that class is located, whether it be in the basement of a church or in the finest public school that we would have in our state. We need to continue to inspire the creative genius that lies in each one of us.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. It seems like everytime we have a controversial bill we bring up religion and it seems like the Catholics are brought up more often than any, especially when it is a controversial bill, and I felt compelled to stand here and tell you that my religion, Catholic, has nothing to do whatsoever as to how I vote on this bill. I would feel very strongly regardless how the Catholic religion felt on this position because I feel very strongly on the freedom of religion. All of us read the same laws and probably the same bible but we interpret those laws differently, and because we do, we have Democrats, we have Republicans, we have Methodists, we have Presbyterians, Catholics and so forth. We should not say that because we interpret those laws differently that we are criminals and I believe you know what I am talking about. I know, and it should be that way, the state has a compelling interest in the quality of education for our children but that compelling interest should not override the religious freedom that we have that is guaranteed by the First Amendment. Thank you very much.