

March 9, 1982

LB 652

is triggered by something that another person does and brings to the State Board. Let's say that we have got the kind of people I am talking about so I can characterize them and separate them from all these churches, whatever they are that people like. We have got a bunch of liars saying that they are a church and they are not. They are terrorists and they want to teach the children terroristic ways. All they do is fill out the papers with these lies saying that they are a church, that they are a lay board, that to comply with state rules and compulsory attendance laws will violate their religion. They give that to the State Board of Education, file it annually, and according to the word in Line 19, Section 2, the State Board of Education "shall" act. They "shall" act. They don't have a right to determine whether this is a church. They don't even know what a church is based on this bill. There is no definition of a church. What is the difference between a church and religious denomination? Who knows? Nobody. Who cares? Nobody. Because the issue is not religion as such here, the issue is that a preacher went to jail for what he believed in which is what I might have to do on the freeway. But those of us who believe in causes know that the best thing that can happen to advance our cause is go to jail, then there might be a price to pay from those who agree with us if they see us hauled off in handcuffs. Now in the case of the minister, his people shut the church door. They locked up the church, closed the school. I don't know what would happen in another situation involving somebody else. But remember this, there is nothing in this bill at all to set any standards for the teacher, any requirements for the lay board. And Senator DeCamp, when I made my remarks about people being in the penitentiary and whatnot serving on this board, that had nothing to do with their character. It dealt only with the idea that it is totally unregulated. If you have these kind of people on the school board of a public education system, remember, those schools are regulated by the law. They are regulated. There is a limit to what they do. There are requirements as to what must be taught and the kind of people who are allowed to teach. Under this bill that you and Senator Howard Peterson have put together, there are no standards of any kind on anybody. I have said that in prior presentations and Senator DeCamp and nobody else can contradict it. There is no standard that the teacher must meet. There is no standard of honesty that the lay board must meet. There is no qualification that anybody must be shown to have. All you have to do is get a bunch of people to write some words on a piece of paper and give it to the State Board and they can know to a certitude that this is not a church,

8564