

March 19, 1982

LB 652

CLERK: 7 ayes, 22 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Peterson's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. We are back on the Remmers-Sieck amendment. We have Senator Wiitala who wanted to speak on the amendment.

SENATOR WIITALA: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to commend Senator Remmers and Senator Sieck for placing this amendment on LB 652. I would like to recall the experiences that I had on the Education Committee. While I was in full favor of the original LB 652 but as that bill was advanced from committee a very important provision was struck. That provision called for some equivalency, some modicum of knowledge, a requisite skill in order to teach the various fields that a teacher, monitor, whatever you call them, hope to utilize in teaching students. When that area was struck, this bill was dead in committee. Except for the stewardship, statesmanship of some committee members who voted to advance that bill to the floor as long as their reservations about the bill were expressed, you can read them in your bill book. I concur with Senator Remmers and Senator Sieck in asking that anyone that teaches a child has the dignity, the independence, the proficiency of a certain given field of knowledge and skill. That is so necessary in dealing with a child. Children who have questions about life, anyone that has dealt with a child in younger years knows that that is how they learn is by raising questions. You don't respond to them by simply turning their minds back into packets, prepared materials. I am not questioning a person's spiritual development. The thing that I have always questioned as we have debated this issue is the issue of a person's knowledge in the field that they profess to teach in and I believe that this amendment is a sincere attempt, much more well thought out, much more rational than declaring that what we need is an eighth grade education or a high school education in order to teach children and I thank these Senators for it. Thank you, members.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Howard Peterson speaking of the amendment.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would merely point out that what is being done here is substitution of hours rather than certification and in reality what we are doing is circumventing that particular word. It seems to me that it is very unreasonable for us to do that. As I was coming to this session this afternoon, I attended the Kiwanis