

luncheon this noon, the downtown club, where many of the Kiwanians who were here this morning were there. I left the meeting with Governor Thone. Governor Thone said to me, what is up this afternoon, and I said, Governor, the Christian school bill, and he said, Senator, have you read to the members of this body a section from the Nebraska Constitution, Article I, Bill of Rights, Section 4, and I said, no, I haven't. I would just like to invite those of you who have that section of the Constitution before you to open your books and take a look at it. I am going to read out of the Nebraska Blue Book that section. The Governor's opinion is that particular section applies to the Christian schools and he is concerned for what will happen if something isn't done in this session of the Legislature. Let me just read it for you. Section 4. "All persons have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences. No person shall be compelled to attend, erect, or support any place of worship against his consent, and no preference shall be given by law to any religious society, nor shall any interference with the rights of conscience be permitted. No religious test shall be required as a qualification for office nor shall any person be incompetent to be a witness on account of his religious beliefs; but nothing herein shall be construed to dispense with...essential to good government. It shall be the duty of the Legislature to pass suitable laws to protect every religious denomination in the peaceful enjoyment of its own mode of public worship, and to encourage schools and the means of instruction." It just seems to me that this is the whole crux of the matter as far as the Christian schools are concerned and I would submit to you that what is being done in this particular amendment is just the opposite of what that article states. For that reason I would rise to oppose the amendment as written.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, I move the previous question. I want to get on to the next amendment.

PRESIDENT: There won't be any need, Senator Koch, because the only other one on is Senator Remmers and he can close. So Senator Remmers, if you will close on the amendment.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would have accepted an amendment of the nature of Senator Peterson if it had been a progressive thing that would have required some effort each year to arrive at the sixty and one hundred and twenty hours. In regard to circumventing the certification rule, I don't believe that this is doing