

aware I think that Vocational Education is not well developed in many schools in many areas of the state, and what little help those schools are getting is going to be cut back even more dramatically as the federal funds take another million dollar loss next year. So that is basically my pitch. One, that Driver's Education is arguably not even a proper education function. Two, that even if it is, the net safety effect may be negative and may not, in fact, be worth our while to be doing that. But far and away most importantly, three, Vocational Education is more important than Driver's Education, and if we have to choose between the two, and I think that is the situation we are in, it makes more sense to put the money into Vocational Education than into Driver's Education. So, therefore, I ask you once again to shift the money and remind you again that it is not an increase in total funding but a shift of funding. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, my good friend, Senator Beutler, I remember very distinctly a year ago we had a bill on this floor and it was called LB 318. The purpose of LB 318 was to provide the public schools additional funds to support Vocational Education. At that time Senator Beutler gave one of the more eloquent speeches here on back to the basics and Vocational Education shouldn't be a part of high schools. Now then he wants to take from the Driver's Education fund money and put it into the Vocational Education fund. I am very familiar with what Senator Beutler is talking to you in terms of federal cutbacks because I keep up with those on a daily basis, and I am concerned about the federal cutbacks and how they affect this state. This state presently puts in just a little over \$150,000 into Vocational Education to match federal dollars. That shows you how puny we have been in helping the public schools. A year ago also we passed an increase in driver's license fees to help support the cost of Driver's Education which is not mandatory but permissive but yet most all schools in the state participate in the program. That study we had on Driver's Education I recall the average cost across the state was about \$151 per student. At that time the state was supporting Driver's Education at the rate of \$40 per student. A year ago this body made a determination that we would support Driver's Education based upon \$80 per student due to the increased fees derived from drivers' licenses and other kinds of licenses. So I am going to oppose Senator Beutler because I am sure most of you are familiar with the lifeboat theory. That is an interesting theory. A group of people were out in a lifeboat, different professions, different interests,