

the catholic parochial schools but schools that are accredited of a number of other religious denominations and I, personally, have no difficulty making legislative judgment that it is not beyond our power and authority or it is not a wise matter of public policy to require those children to attend those schools even though their parents have strong objections to their attending those schools because our first obligation it seems to me as a legislative body is to the future of those school children. Now there is also a judicial question involved. Under the doctrine of Wisconsin versus Yoder, under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the religion guarantees of the State Constitution can we require those school children to attend state accredited schools. And I think it would be beneficial for this Legislature to hear the opinion of the federal court on that issue, and coincidentally the church in Louisville has now filed an action in the United States District Court asking the federal courts in Nebraska to interpret the case, Wisconsin versus Yoder, and to see if the Faith Baptist Church in Louisville is entitled to the same protections of the United States Supreme Court granted the Amish in the Yoder case. And I, for one, am content to let that opinion, to let that lawsuit work its way through the federal courts here in Nebraska and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and perhaps the United States Supreme Court to see what the federal courts have to say on this issue bearing in mind, bearing in mind that the federal courts have in the Amish situation granted relief under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. So I say let's let this lawsuit proceed. In my legislative judgment we should not grant relief. If the federal courts disagree with that legislative judgment on constitutional grounds, we will no doubt hear from them perhaps before the next legislative session begins. I say that the groups that have been the proponents of this bill have taken that issue to federal court, let's leave it in the federal courts for the federal courts to decide, and take this bill up again after we have had that federal judicial input. In the meantime we have six days left in this legislative session. We have dozens of bills that are crowding our schedule, demanding our time, not only on Select File but on General File, and I say let's vote to kill this bill now, let's wait the outcome of the federal decision, let's put an end to this issue right now so we can reach the many, many other important issues that yet are to be heard on our agenda, and have time to consider those issues many of which I think are indeed more important than this issue before us today. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Landis.