

SENATOR CLARK: Debate is not ceased. The next speaker is Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is not an easy question for me. A year ago I would not have guessed that I would be speaking in this manner on this issue. In fact, I had decided I was going to sit along the sidelines. I also assure you that my former colleagues in the school business haven't taken very favorably to my position. I speak against the kill motion because I would like to have the amendment that we have in the Journal given some consideration. Maybe some of you have already given it some consideration but my position has changed since a year ago. I guess maybe something about responsibility, making one feel more responsible and I feel I have a responsibility and the thing that has probably changed my mind as much as anything is the statistics that I have read in regard to states of the fifty states, what they are doing in regard to certifying the teachers in church schools. When I find that only eight states require certification of Christian schools and when I find that most of those are not enforcing the law, in fact, it seems to me that Nebraska was probably the first to aggressively pursue this, to enforce the law, it caused me to wonder just a little bit, are we on the right track. Out here in Nebraska we realize Nebraska is number one in a lot of things but I'm not comfortable in being number one in all things and I'm not comfortable in being number one in our pursuit here of trying to require the Christian schools to have certified teachers. I agree with Senator Landis, that I think those people are sincere. As much as ridicule and scorn as I have heard heaped upon these people, I believe that they are sincere. They are sincere in their beliefs as any of the rest of us are in ours. The bill as it stands now does give the State Department some control of the curriculum. I think the amendment that I had suggested once before and has been written up again in the Journal with some help from some other senators will tighten up the restrictions on the Christian schools. I'd have to agree with some of the comments that Senator Landis has made in regard to what certification indicates. On the other hand I would say that I am in favor of certification for public schools. I am in favor of teachers having advanced degrees because I think the good teacher is improved with an advanced degree so I cannot accept the fact that preparation, formal education should not make better teachers and I think it does. Education is very difficult to test. It is very difficult to know just what good education is but those of us that have been in it for years maintain that better preparation is an important item. But I hesitate to enforce this on everyone who does, those that do have some strong religious beliefs, some strong concerns