

April 5, 1982

LB 652

The Supreme Court language in this case is clear. The state should be neutral, it should not prefer any religions, it should not disparage any religions and what we essentially do in this body by failing to pass LB 652 is to disparage a particular portion of the spectrum of religious thought in this state. And to say your convictions, because they contradict my own perception of what we should do to children, do not merit being honored, do not merit legislative recognition and we're going to overrule you by simply throwing down the bomb on the teachers certification...

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...absent proof that that certification does the children any good.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp is next. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Chairman, there has been one speaker speaking for the amendment. You haven't had anybody speak against it. Now I don't think that is quite fair to call the question. I think you should reject this motion.

SENATOR CLARK: I don't think it is fair either but I didn't call the question.

SENATOR VICKERS: But the rules say you have the power, Mr. Speaker, to not, to reject the motion.

SENATOR CLARK: We won't call the question. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I agree completely with Senator Landis in his analogy of what we are doing. The compromises that have been reached have been primarily in behalf of those who believe the Christian schools should be able to operate. When I first saw this amendment I had some concerns and the reason I had the concerns because I also am concerned about other private denominations of education such as the Catholic schools, Lutheran schools and others but with the amendment offered by Senator Fowler, now the amendment offered by several senators, I understand the people who want to operate the private schools are agreeable and believe they can meet these standards and for those of you who have read the amendments on 1328 you should read it completely because it does provide the lay board shall have to furnish the State Board of Education and verify the qualifications of each teacher retained or employed by that board and there is indeed a check to see whether or not the schools are living up to this amendment. I support this amendment and hope the body would too.