

are being taught by whoever happens to stand before those children as a teacher. And if an individual does not have the capability, then let their be picket signs, picket lines and other protests of such nature aimed at removing that person from that classroom as a teacher. That gets us away from all of this talk about having the state intrude into somebody's religious belief. Certification, I think, has been fairly well discredited during the discussion of these religious schools. Now if a teacher were to be considered ignorant, I don't think it makes too much difference whether that teacher is teaching children in a religious school or in a public school. If we are not really concerned about what the children learn but are mainly concerned about keeping the teacher colleges functioning, keeping a place to employ those who can't cut the mustard and other disciplines, providing an easy job for retired public school administrators, providing a job in the classroom for people who can't make it any other way, let all of that continue to be but let us remove the sham and the hoax. Let us stop deceiving parents into thinking that state certification of teachers has anything to do with the quality of education or the capability of the one having the certification. Some schools are considered to be so low academically that a diploma, if it is a high school, or a degree if it is a college, is considered to be nothing more than a certificate of attendance. You went there long enough or you paid enough money for somebody to give you a piece of paper with their name on it saying you'd been there this amount of time. There are many people who trust public schools. There are many people who acknowledge that they don't know how to go about teaching their children to read, write and work with numbers. There are people who will acknowledge that they've been out of school a long time and the world has changed, that what they have learned in the classroom is not suitable as an educational diet for the children of today, that a gap, in fact, does exist between what they know and could offer their child and what the child needs to make it successfully through this society, to jump through the hoops that are put there for a person to jump through in order to be a success. Maybe what has to be done is to start at ground zero for everybody and let us reevaluate the entire system of compulsory public education. If it has no value, then discard it and save money, reduce the property taxes and let everybody rear their children the best they can with what they know. On the other hand, if it is determined that there should be a minimum amount of education that the state ensures to all of its citizens, certain standards would have to be set and a child ought not be deprived of that beneficial effect simply because his or her parents would cleave to a given religious doctrine. So if you want to be consistent, not just for the sake of blind, unthinking consistency, but consistent in a