

April 5, 1982

LB 652

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I haven't spoken on this issue, I don't recall, either last year or this year but every once in a while, you know, things rub you wrong a certain length of time and you have to say something. We passed an amendment a little while ago that said, teachers, you have to do something. You have to get a few hours now and then and over a four year term I believe it was sixty hours you should have or whatever the number. Okay, you think that is going to work? No. That is not going to work. Why isn't it going to work? Because many of these schools have told us, we don't want any regulations and that includes the regulation we just thought we passed. How are you going to make them do it when they don't want to and they are not going to. What we are doing is prolonging the agony. A few made the mistake of last year of saying to some of these schools, we'll try to work with you. That meant, we're caving in to you, to them. That's what it meant. There is no compromise with some of these schools and the sooner we realize that the better off we are going to be as a body. Many schools, I'm not afraid of religious schools that are in existence. Many of them have been abiding by the minimal requirements prescribed by this state and have had no problems. Now some of them are saying, oh, this is a good deal. If they let down the bars for them, they'll let down some of the bars for us and it could possibly be that this would be a way for them to lower their standards. Whenever we start to compromise our standards I think we're in trouble and that is what we have done on this issue. I have been around this body too long watching people like Senator Koch fight for the good parts of education, fight for the minimal things that should be done to see something like this happen to this body now and to the State of Nebraska. It is time we say to ourselves, this is not a religious situation. This is an educational problem and say it to ourselves and mean it and say it to the people who are attempting to push us around. When a few people say that this is what we believe and we expect you, Legislature, to change all of the laws across the state in education just to accommodate a few of us who believe a certain way because we want to believe. In religion you can believe anything you want and it is all right and in your churches the state says believe anything you want in your church and we won't bother you one whit and we don't. But when any church goes into a business other than religion they are in a business. I don't care what it is, if it's a parking lot you have some regulations and some laws that you must obey. If you buy a liquor store you're certainly going to be regulated. I think that the few of these schools have really taken advantage of this

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