

SENATOR JOHNSON: The only thing that goes beyond fire and safety is the expression, "protection of children". Senator Beutler asked me a question three or four weeks ago on General File what that meant and I said that means physical protection of children. That is it. Nothing goes to programs, nothing goes to curriculum, nothing goes to teacher certification.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, lets talk about that. Protection of children. There are some people that think, for example, that a child should be protected from what they read, what they see, what they are told, what they are taught, isn't that protection of children? Isn't that open enough and broad enough for somebody at the Department of Education under some rule making authority to come up and say, well children that don't learn this or do learn that or. . .are exposed to this are not being protected. Isn't that wide open for that? And if not, why not?

SENATOR JOHNSON: I think protection has a specific definition. I think protection refers to the physical well being of a child. I don't think it refers to the kind of values that are imparted to a child. I think if we had wanted to make it clear that the Department of Public Welfare could regulate educational quality, we would have said that. But we made it clear that the Department of Public Welfare can only regulate health safety and protection of children. . .

SENATOR DeCAMP: Where does it say health safety and physical protection like you are talking?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Not in these amendments, Senator DeCamp, but in the original bill.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Does it talk about strictly physical protection in the original bill?

✓ SENATOR JOHNSON: The word is protection and as I said, Senator, it does not use the word "physical protection" it just uses the word "protection".

SENATOR DeCAMP: Well, I guess I will be honest with you. I have grave reservations based upon how I know administrative departments interpret their authority in the broadest way possible, it seems, when they want, and it seems that you are leaving it wide open for exactly that interpretation. I have got some concerns, I will say that.