

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cope and then Senator Koch.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I'm not going to go over the different reasons. They have been well put for supporting this amendment. I support it. The precedent that we would be setting I think is almost unbelievable and I don't think this body, as lawmakers, can afford to do that.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, if we pass this amendment to LR 4, certainly I do not wish my name to be a part of that resolution and I will tell you why. Because if we apply this law with all the strength and the artillery of the state to all the schools who refer to themselves as Christian schools, you are going to have a rotunda full of people like you have never seen. The polls are great but they are like willow trees. You call a person and ask them a question and you are going to get a yes or no. They don't fully understand the implications of the total legislation or the issue. And those who live by polls, I think, are often misled. I had an opportunity to speak to a group of people not very long at an evening meeting and one of the issues was Christian education, trying to understand it. A lady from the League of Women Voters came up to me afterwards and said, "Senator Koch, when I came here this evening I was convinced the law should be as it is." She said, "Now, I believe there should be some change made to allow parents the right to send their child to an educational institution that they deem to be the best place." If this resolution is amended, is passed, I want to sit back and watch the various county attorneys and the county superintendents carry out their obligations with equal force. I doubt that they will. Several have mentioned that laws, what we are doing here is we are saying, "don't enforce the law." But I submit to you I would bet there are hundreds of laws in our statutes that are not being enforced, seldom enforced and yet this Legislature in its wisdom in the past has said, "It shall be enforced." The most recent one I can remember is the county assessors. We have agonized over that bit for a long time. Two years ago we passed a law which said, "The county assessor shall relook at the values in their counties every two years," and the first time it should have been done was last year. Yet we know it wasn't done. It wasn't done at all and that is a very serious question when you look at equity, yet the Constitution is very implicit when it says that "all property shall be evaluated with equity, internally and externally and proportionately." We have had laws about minors not purchasing tobacco. I see this happen all the time. We don't enforce that law.