

from a very small community in northeast Nebraska and coming from a very, very homogeneous community, some...most of the people in his area not only were white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants, they all had the same nation of national origin, either Norwegian or Swedish or one of the Scandinavian countries, had never had any experience dealing with members of minority cultures at all, left good old Wayne State College when Wayne State College was, by and large, a white population with no individuals of minority attending at the time I was there, got his first teaching job teaching at Tech Junior High School in Omaha. This has been some years ago. Most of you know Tech Junior High and Tech High School doesn't exist anymore. Teaching a class that was predominantly black in nature, he had tremendous problems learning how to adjust. The students did not have a particularly good experience with him as a teacher, and he would admit that. What this bill designs to do is to give our teachers some awareness, some sort of training, some sort of preparation for dealing with people that come from a culture somewhat other than their own. Point two I guess is the example we dealt with here on the floor of the Legislature, maybe the specific example that brought to the introduction of this bill, that was an Omaha, I believe it was a junior high school group of students put on a skit, the language club, even, I think, of all groups, put on a skit that was, you know, racially offensive, very racially offensive. Hopefully if that teacher would have had some training and understanding and sensitivity to this area of human relations would have not allowed that type of program to go on and it would not have been an issue. These are the types of things that it is we are talking about. I guess I should also like to point out, we are talking primarily here about the preparation of the teachers, so that they will have the sensitivity. Some people have read this bill, the Taxpayers for Quality Education here in Lincoln I know have sent out in their mailing that this is a horrible bill because it will force teachers to teach about subgroups and they think of subgroups such as, you know, homosexuals, group living, all of those kind of things. This bill has nothing to do with those types of situations. I just want to make that clear for the record also. With that, I know Senator Nelson has an amendment. We will deal with that amendment. Hopefully, we can then deal with the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, we will go to the Nelson amendment now.