

March 1, 1989

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here when I came on the floor and my staff brought the rest of it to me, and I had this information in here evidently from the group that you are talking about, Senator Withem, but I am very pleased because I was going to ask you, tell you that after the fact when I voted for the committee amendments, what had we done with that word "ethnic", and now Senator Nelson's amendment is addressing that, and I will be very supportive of that as I am of the bill. Being a former educator and being, as you say, Senator Withem, raised in a community and actually being exactly what you said, white, Protestant, Scandinavian, partly. Anyway I was raised in the country with all those people that all we ever knew in my life, I taught school in the country for a number of years, and when I went into the city system, I was thrown for the first time, or I guess I should say I had the opportunity for the first time to teach children of other ethnic backgrounds, and that was a very learning experience for me, and I think that we should all be very supportive of this idea. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, Mr. President. It is with pleasure I rise to support the Nelson amendment somewhat...I feel a little bit uncomfortable here handling somebody else's bill, but I understand though that Senator Nelson has talked to Senator Hall. It is pretty much a clarification amendment except for this word, we are changing the word from "subgroup" to "pluralistic", this will change it to "ethnic group". I guess, personally, I am more comfortable with the word "ethnic". The word "pluralistic", a member of the body who isn't here today came up to me and indicated that she had some problems with the word "pluralistic", so I don't think it makes a lot of difference but also understanding that words sometimes mean more to one person than to another. If the body is more comfortable with the word "ethnic" than "pluralistic", that is fine also. I guess I must also confess to a culture stereotype of my own, and that is until Senator Smith spoke, I did not realize that many Scandinavians had red hair, so this is helping us even further understand cultural differences maybe, so I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to...in the committee, I suggested the word "pluralistic". To me ethnic