

through the amendments we have had a good discussion of the bill. I think you understand what it does. I would move the advancement of this bill to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, please, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. These kind of bills trouble me a little bit in this aspect. We have in our country tremendous historical backgrounds of where people originated when they came to this country. However, now we are citizens of the United States, we are citizens of Nebraska. Why aren't we teaching citizenship, and equality as equal citizens, rather than to keep pointing out that we are and have come from different areas or different pasts? The past is gone. We need to teach progressively that we are members of this society, and not members of some other. Maintaining ethnic divisions within our schools seems to me something like teaching a religion in a school. We are all the same, we are all citizens, and that is how our government should be structured rather than to try to maintain these differences. So, just a matter of a little principle here, thanks.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, just a brief comment, bills like LB 250 bother me just a little bit, too, because it puts us in a position if we vote against something of this nature that we appear to be against human relations, we appear to be against teaching of equality and respect and the dignity of all peoples and all cultures, all ethnic groups, and so on, and I have the problems with the bill technically as it is, even though I did support to vote it out of committee, and that is, in my opinion, all areas of higher education, the institutions of higher education as defined by the bill, what they have to do is certify that the areas defined in the course of human relations that was specified in the original green copy of the bill, certify that at some place, at some point, within some course that would be taken by teachers, that those topics would be covered somewhere. So, in essence, in my opinion, what you will have if LB 250 passes is a law that will have good intentions but will not do anything because I can't imagine too many, in fact, I can't imagine any institution who will not be able to certify that those areas are not being