

May 24, 1989

LB 813

Senator Schmit.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, please, two and a half minutes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I appreciate the remarks of Senator Labeledz and Senator Withem. I am not a very diplomatic person. If I were in charge of the private schools I'd do just what Bernice said, I would close the schools next September first and I think that Senator Withem has touched upon what would happen. There would be chaos in the public school system. We would find then a much greater burden placed upon the public school system. The 147,000 is a token and only that. I would suggest we have a bargain in this instance and we ought to grab it and live with it. I do not think that there is any reason why we cannot encourage the parallel of institutions that we have in public and private education. I complain once in a while to Father Herbek about the cost of private education, but I can tell you very frankly that if the public school system had to educate the children who go to the private schools in the counties I represent, my taxes would be substantially higher, much, much higher than they are today on the farmland that I own, and so therefore, ladies and gentlemen, I say you get a good buy here. It's an acknowledgement by the Supreme Court that it is legal and we ought to acknowledge that we concur and we ought to override in this instance. If we don't, ladies and gentlemen, I'll guarantee you, the time will come when the cost will be much more substantial. It's not a promise or it's not a threat, it's just a fact of life. All of this talk about priorities, as Senator Abboud talks about priorities, ladies and gentlemen, the priorities are different once you've gotten your own bill passed and signed by the Governor. Then we have an entirely different set of priorities. I'm going to offer an amendment later, or I'm going to offer a motion later on which will give you a chance to bite the bullet...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and reassign some real priorities when I offer the motion to reconsider the bracket motion on the Commonwealth bill, ladies and gentlemen.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, I would yield my time to Senator Chambers.