

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I feel very uncomfortable this morning as always happens when a saint and sinner are in proximity going the same direction. I'm talking about Saint Labeledz. This is an issue that I strongly support as far as voting for the override. I have been critical when we were talking about public education matters because so much discussion goes to what I call aid to schools but not to education. It's difficult to find anything that bears more directly on the aspect of education itself than books. All children, as Senator Withem and others have indicated, have a right to a decent education, as good an education as can be provided by the state and its instrumentalities. In this instance there is a situation where certain people choose to send their children to nonpublic schools. I have never had a child in a nonpublic school, I want to match Senator Withem credentials for credentials, I have never attended a nonpublic school. Maybe I'd be better off had I attended such schools, and maybe I wouldn't, but the fact is that those children regardless of which school, public or nonpublic they attend, should have the same opportunities. Books have always been things that had a special meaning to me. When I was very young I quickly became aware of the fact that adults don't tell children the truth. Senator Labeledz, when I went to church, I went to a Fundamentalist Church. They prayed, they whooped, they hollered, they believed in the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, they talked about loving the children, but when it came to the actual treatment of children, they were some of the meanest people I had ever seen in my life, and I quickly developed a principle, that if those in church who were talking to God all the time, and in the church I went to the God they worshiped must have been deaf because of how loud they had to shout to get his attention, or maybe he was just too intelligent to pay attention to nonsense such as that. But in any case, it taught me that adults do not deal fairly with children, that they do not tell children the truth and I developed the practice of questioning everything an adult told me. When I was growing up I was very meek, humble and obedient, so the questioning I did of adults was deep down inside of me and the place I had to go to try to get information was to books. When they told me things were in the Bible, I read the Bible to see if that were so. When they told me other things I would try to find sources other than those people to see if such things were so. In the