

told me that he had spoken to the Governor just recently when she was in North Platte. And I said, well, you will be glad to know that the Governor has come out with some very tough penalties on drug enforcement. And he said, good, she listened to me. And so, as far as he is concerned, he is a happy camper because when he speaks to the Governor things happen. But we got into some conversations and the essence of the conversation was that here I was talking to a nine-year-old and we were talking about drugs and we were talking about abuses and we were talking about things that were happening to his friends in elementary school. And it paused me...gave me pause to think about LB 514. Sometimes we, as adults, lose touch. We lose touch. We remember our children as they were. We remember situations and circumstances the way we would like to remember them to be and our children that we have had are grown, in many cases, and we remember the way it used to be, and we lose touch of what's happening there. And one thing I can tell you, when you get into a classroom in 1990 in the State of Nebraska, there is one group of people you should not sell short. I have heard people on the floor question about whether adults are capable. I have heard people question whether the faculty members would be capable and qualified to teach certain sections. But the one group of people that we neglect to talk about that we hold far too short in esteem and that is the students themselves. I will guarantee you that you put a set of facts in front of students and they're going to give you one heck of an intelligent evaluation on what's a good idea and what's a bad idea. And they're going to give you a pretty quick example of saying that was the most stupid thing I have ever heard.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Or they're going to say, that makes sense. And the one thing I think we need to keep in mind is that our children, in elementary particularly, are hurting more than we were, are hurting more than possibly your children were when they went through. So many things are happening so fast to them. And if we don't do something like 514 to augment what we already have there, I ask the body to ask themselves a question, when will we teach the students about these areas? When will we discuss these areas? How long will we postpone it? Till they're junior high? Till they're in college? Till they're an adult? And, in the meantime, they have, while we're debating when and how they should learn, believe me, people, they have already learned it in their own way. They will have learned it.