

March 28, 1990

LB 976, 1091

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The first part of the amendment, 2843, has been withdrawn. I am sorry.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Sections of that amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: All of AM2843 are withdrawn. Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Pirsch. Senator, again, because you are primary introducer, I have 2844 in front of me now.

SENATOR PIRSCH: (Mike off) that is the same, is it not, Mr. Clerk? Yeah, pull that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I then have is one offered by Senators Johnson, Pirsch, Peterson, and Beck found on page 1345 of the Journal. AM2799, Senator.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Pirsch. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, am I perceived with an opening statement?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Certainly.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Thank you. Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I think like all of us I have been increasingly aware and alarmed about the high incidence of drug use by minors. This amendment proposed to Senator Pirsch's excellent school yard bill was introduced by me during our current session of the Legislature as LB 1091. The bill received a committee hearing before the Judiciary Committee on February 21st, and at that hearing, LB 1091 received wide and unanimous support from both law enforcement officials and those involved with drug prevention programs. Those who testified and from the letters I have received are unified in their agreement that the current penalty system for drug offenses in Nebraska does not adequately address those crimes perpetrated against the young. It is a fact that our statutes pertaining to drug offenses fail to make a distinction between crimes perpetrated on an adult compared to those involving minors. In conjunction with Senator Pirsch's 976, this amendment signals a clear message to those who pedal