

certainly there may be a compelling interest on the part of the government to do these types of investigations. Rather, my objection to the bill, which is why I've been voting against these, as Senator Dierks would call them, the harassing amendments, or nonharassing amendments, the reason I object to the bill is that part of what the bill would encompass is the fingerprinting of any of these individuals which, in order to do a criminal investigation, may be necessary. The problem we run into is that those fingerprints would then be held in a central filing system, I assume in Washington or at some national archive, where they would be held, again increasing the federal government's data base on individuals and, to me, that's what I find objectionable about it. If the fingerprints were going to be destroyed immediately with no records maintained immediately after the investigation was done, I wouldn't have as big a problem with it. But the fact is I do have a problem with government gathering more and more information on individual persons that is not necessary to the effective operation of government. So my objections, and I just wanted to, I guess, state those, that my objections don't go to singling out individual groups because oftentimes when we're making policy decisions there are legitimate reasons to single out particular groups because those particular groups may be the ones who have the most contact with a...with something you're trying to correct. Mine, as I say, goes to the fact that it's just increasing the intrusion of government and that is an ongoing intrusion, well past, for example, well past the time that individual may be involved in education at all. So I'll continue to vote against the series of amendments, but it's my intent to vote against the bill also.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I do oppose the amendment. Senator Ashford, I'm sure you've offered it with all your usual esteem and grace and I...but I think that I'm still going to oppose it because I think that what we've done is probably pretty well geld the legislation with this type of an amendment. I think that the legislation is intended to provide these services for...these protections for our students, our children, and we do that by asking for the background check of teachers, and if we take them out, we have more or less neutered the bill. So I will oppose the amendment and ask that you search your souls again and come up with some reasons to support this legislation, to help me support this