

February 11, 1992 LB 21, 922

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 21. The next speaker is Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, there's not a lot that I can add to what Senator Withem said. I think Senator David Stevens does have a good point and how far do we want to dictate to the schools and the...for their curriculum. But I will guarantee you that through the testimony of the hearing and some of us, at least in education, realize that we need to find out and to learn a lot more about the fellow schools and their classmates. And I do support the Beutler amendment and I also ask the body to move this bill because we all know the problem that exists out there and we're just simply shutting our eyes to it and I don't think that it makes mandates over and above what we can live with and, thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Schrock, you're next.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I, too, support the Beutler amendment and I commend Senator Chambers for bringing this bill to the body. The goals of this bill are laudable. I would say though that the school administrators are skeptical about more mandated curriculum. I've talked to Superintendent of Schools Randy Nelson of Lexington. They have their own particular set of problems. They have gone from a 3 percent minority in school to 17 percent in the past year. They have over a hundred students where English is their second language. I think it's important to note though that they are making progress in some areas. Forty percent of their teachers have had class on human relations, have completed their requirement on that. I know others are doing so also and my wife has also taken that class and she sat in on the hearings and was very impressed with the testimony and thinks it is a very needed class. I think we have to be careful that we don't cause too much disruption in our schools, but I would agree with, or I don't know if Senator Chambers has inferred it, but I would state that rural Nebraska, especially where there is no minorities, probably needs this worse, probably needs this type of curriculum more than the urban areas because there is a lot of insensitivity out there. And so though I am somewhat skeptical about how the schools are going to have to implement this bill, I think the goals are attainable