

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I would speak against the amendment, but at the same time say that it's a...it's, again, one of these issues upon which reasonable people can disagree. I would simply...I think...I think you're clear as to how this works. If you do not adopt George's amendment, then everybody born after 1977, as they come of age, as they require permits, slowly, over a long period of time it will result in everybody who's hunting with a shotgun or a high-powered rifle will have to have a basic minimum hunter education course before they can do that. If you adopt George's amendment, then it means simply that at any point in time those who are 16 and under will have to take the education course; but if somebody who is 23 or 27 or 40 or 50 applies for a permit, they can do so without...meeting only current requirements and not necessarily taking the hunter education course. Almost everywhere in the country now they are requiring everybody or, on a similar program to the one that we're about...that we're being asked to consider, they're requiring more and more hunters hunter education and requiring everybody to get the education. That's generally what's happening in the country, and the reason I think is relatively clear. We're getting more crowded, property owners are concerned about hunters out there from the urban areas that have no idea what they're doing with weapons. And so it's seen by some folks, at least, as being in everybody's best interest to have some training for everybody who's handling the shotguns and the high-powered rifles. I don't know that there are any other policy considerations one way or another. It's a...it's kind of a judgment question on whether...on how you feel about those kinds of weapons and whether there should be some assurance to the public that they've had at least some minimal training or education with them. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: On the original...on the original section.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: On the original section. Senator Elmer to speak to the Coordsen amendment.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President, members. Having sat on the committee and listened to the various hunting groups, what we have in the bill is really a grandfather clause that