

February 5, 1996 LB 754

as I am about the bill, because I thought I better take the opportunity. I tried to do this one day a couple weeks ago and it got voted on before I got my light on. So this is my opportunity to visit about the background check. I don't know whether...I'm sorry I missed the debate this morning, we were visiting about another matter over in Mr. Nowka's office, and so I did miss some of it. I suppose that Senator Bohlke told you that I had...that I had brought this legislation originally, the first time, and then I brought it again a second time and was a subject of a cartoon in the Lincoln paper, by Paul Fell. I've got the original in my office, if you'd like to see it sometime. But the last time I brought it to committee, why, Senator Bohlke was chair of the committee and she asked...or she was on the committee anyway, and she asked me if I would object to priests and nuns being...their background checked. And I said absolutely not because I think everybody that deals with a student should go through this, and I still believe that. I don't believe that even teachers that are in the state should be left away from this legislation. I believe that everybody that deals with our children should have this background check. We had a young man that taught in our school district, when I was on the school board there, who, as history has shown, was not all that honorable a fellow, and when he finally went to another school district, some of these things came out. And then one of the...he finally ran off with one of the girls in that other school district, a girl that he had known and taught, left his family and moved to California to teach. And so when I found that out I wrote a letter to the investigative agency in California, and they wrote back to me kind of...their word was something to the effect, drop dead. So I think that these things are necessary, I think it's absolutely essential that these children have that protection and I sure support this legislation. And I'm not sure about David's amendment, but the legislation I support. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Robinson. Senator Robinson waives off. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, and members, just so that everyone is clear what the amendment does by striking the five years is that we then would be doing the fingerprinting of all teachers currently in the state of Nebraska. What we have said is that cur...that people...I repeat it because I think it's