

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 13, 2000 LB 1107

efficiently organized? That's why we're getting ourselves in trouble.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. For discussion on the Beutler amendment to LB 1107, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I don't see any harm that can be done by Senator Beutler's study, but I don't want the bill. If the day comes when the state is obliged to ante up 50.1 percent of aid to schools, then I think the state should control education in this state. The constitution requires that a public education be made available to all the school-age children, whatever that age happens to be. And what I think should happen when the state takes over control is to control education, not content in the sense of which ideas are accepted and which are not, although local school boards want to do that, and local school boards are not always peopled by individuals who have been educated themselves. But the state should control the teacher training colleges and schools that exist in this state, examine the curriculum, make sure that the program is designed to produce people capable and competent to teach the subjects and have them certified to teach. Naturally, the state does the certification. The state should set the qualifications for teachers and not let there be any variation based on any local concern or all such things as that. Whenever they put "local" in front of something, then I feel that indicates right away defect, deficient, inferior. The state should determine the curriculum, to make sure that subjects which need to be taught to comprise a decent education will be taught in all of the schools at a certain level of competency, so no children are cheated, because there are teachers and administrators who are incompetent and want to give easy tests so that they can hold onto their jobs and look like they're doing a good job. But some of these administrators, you could tell the administrator, spell cat, spot the administrator the first two letters, and the administrator still couldn't spell it correctly. Then we would have mandatory testing established by the state, testing, not just the pupils, but testing of teachers. When so much is said about the molding of the minds of our young people and how important that is, the state does have an interest in the qualifications and competency of those