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March 9, 2004

LB 868

Journal page 618.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Redfield, you're recognized to open on advancement of LB 868.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Back when I was a teenager, in 1919, Nebraska took a bold step. They decided that children should go to school from the ages of 7 to 16. Now that was a bold step back in those days, because in fact, only 16 percent of Americans earned a high school diploma. In fact, only one year earlier, the very last state in the 48 states at that time had passed a compulsory attendance law at all. And so it was a bold step. It was a common step, however, and many states at that time were jumping on the education bandwagon, and feeling that they wanted to set in stone in their state statute books a compulsory attendance law. LB 868 deals with changing that law, because in fact I believe that the world has changed a great deal since 1919. I think you would agree. And I did pass out to you a handout. I think it's very interesting to see what has come and gone since the year 1919. Well, of course we have Woodrow Wilson who was President; we have the pogo stick that children were playing on; we have cars that you could buy for \$355; and the Dow Jones was 107. Headlines. Well, we know that the Nazi Party was formed, and it's gone. The Fascists came into power in Italy, and they're gone. Gandhi had his message of peace, and Gandhi is now gone. I will point out, however, that while the League of Nations has not fared so well, that at least the suffrage amendment has survived, and that women can still vote. Prohibition, however, has come and gone. And the 48-hour work week is no more. We have seen that the Senate has supported a great deal. They have supported the Treaty of Versailles, to end World War I, "the war to end all wars." And yet, since that time, wars have come and gone. And we still here in Nebraska have said that a child should attend school from the ages of 7 to 16. I was approached by a parent, a very concerned parent, a very active parent in their child's education, a parent who had a child that at age 16 said, I no longer want to go to school, and there's not a thing you can do about it, because the laws in Nebraska did not help this parent to keep that child in school. And so I introduced LB 868. I have passed out to you a list of