

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

March 9, 2004

LB 868

started school when I was four years old. Senator Jerry Warner said, well, I started school when I was four years old. And it turned out that over half of the Education Committee had started school when they were four years old. And I don't know if Senator Price was on the committee at that time or not. But the lobbyist kind of snuck off at that point. And I think you raise a very good, valid point, and one that I was going to ask, and was asking Senator Stuhr off the mike, what do we do with those children who are exceedingly bright, I mean, who could start kindergarten at one year of age and graduate high school at ten years of age? We've had several children--one comes to mind particularly. I think he was from out in...near Grant, Nebraska. Grant wasn't...maybe it was Lyman or somewhere. But anyway, his parents were having to find ways to educate him because he was so far advanced. And I want to ask Senator Raikes, in addition to the question I asked him before, what do we do with those children who are exceedingly bright? Whose responsibility is it to see that they get an education?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Raikes, will you respond?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes. Senator Schimek, I'll just point out that I too was four years old when I entered kindergarten. (Laughter) The difference is, is that I was eight years old when I entered first grade. (Laughter) You asked the question about the extremely bright young kids, the precocious or...is that word right? I think so.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: The geniuses, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes. The one experience I know about that occurred in Nebraska, that child did not attend a public school, never made an effort, as far as I know, to attend a public school. I can research that for you a little bit. But I'm guessing that that would have to be some sort of a special accommodation, almost in any situation.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, I think you're right. But who's responsible for paying for that? Is the school district? Or is it totally the parents' responsibility? Or is it kind of a jointly agreed upon responsibility? Because you know, it puts a