

February 21, 1975

SENATOR MARSH: Certainly.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Senator Marsh, how does it change present situations? What does it do to . . .

SENATOR MARSH: It allows the State Department of Education to say the educational requirements, rather than our spelling out in detail. At the present time, half of the driver education instructors in the State of Nebraska have an endorsement from the State Department of Education which says they have the required numbers of hours in their educational background in the field of driver education. Half of the other instructors have the qualifications to receive this, but have not applied for it. The other half have probably three-fourth, and when I'm saying three-fourth I'm talking about driver education hours required to teach the subject. There are a number of public institutions, including the University of Nebraska and our teacher colleges, our four state colleges, who are presently having the educational opportunities on campus for teachers to obtain this kind of training. This will, in affect, certify that each instructor who teaches driver education, who is certified by the State Department of Education, will receive certain funds from the State Department of Education. We have funded the Driver Education of the high school students in the State of Nebraska previously. This will enable the State Department of Education to distribute those funds according to the number of qualified instructors. This is not keeping the school from hiring someone how does not have this. It just says you won't be receiving the extra dollars from the State Department of Education, which would be available if you had a qualified instructor. From my point of view, I want all the high school students who choose to take driver education to be taught by a qualified instructor.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Is this going to force some people back to school in order to qualify? Apparently, it is, that's the purpose of it obviously.

SENATOR MARSH: That certainly will be a decision for the individual school boards. This is not . . .

SENATOR DICKINSON: Well, but if they have funds tied up it leaves them very little choice.

SENATOR MARSH: In all probability it will mean just that, that they must go back and pick up three hours of education, one class.

SENATOR DICKINSON: What testimony was given in the hearing to indicate there is any real problem that we have to continually turn people back to fill up some of the empty slots in school perhaps?

SENATOR MARSH: We have educational opportunities available. Some of our trained personnel are now leaving this state because the jobs are filled by someone who does not have all of these qualifications.