

ninth graders from Irving Junior High in Lincoln with Mrs. Austin, their teacher, with them in the rear balcony, and also Senator Scofield has several students, parents and guests from the Chadron Christian Schools of Chadron, the Reverend Robert Ohlmann with them. I don't know exactly where you are but those two groups, if you will stand to be recognized, the Legislature welcomes you. The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers for the committee amendments to LB 928.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, and members, the committee amendments to LB 928 strike everything from the bill except the Christian school issue so that LB 928 became with the committee amendments the vehicle, if you will, to debate and discuss the issue of regulation of private schools in this state. The amendment or the bill that was part of the original 928 and what would be left with the committee amendments deals in the area of setting a lower or a different standard for dealing with the issue of recognition of the teacher but in order to explain that I think maybe a little bit of history perhaps might be in order and that history will begin about a year ago. About a year ago the committee decided not to advance some legislation dealing with this issue. Following that, I began to have a series of meetings in my office with some folks representing the various private schools in this state. Those people over a length of time with a number of meetings and with some folks from the Department of Education, we were able to come up with a mechanism that we call the Parent Report Form. Now that was an attempt to devise some mechanism to bring about communication because it became pretty clear to me that until we had some means of providing communication from a group of people and the Department of Education, we were not going to be able to somehow resolve this issue. Now I told them at the time that the statutes were not being changed so that the use of that form may not, in fact, probably wouldn't resolve the situation. As a matter of fact, that was true. The report form was used but because of the fact that the statutes had not been changed in relationship to requiring certification or the equivalency thereof, there wasn't any resolution. Since that time a number of those same people have sat in my office and we discussed ways to