

should be, but I do believe it is time after four years of conflict and battling on this that they direct some of their attention to the 250,000 children in the public school system and less attention to the 250 students in the Christian school system, and probably when and if that occurs, this Legislature can deal more with other education issues because we won't have this particular conflict hanging over us. No, my solution isn't magic. It is the Spire report. I think it is a reasonable...reasonable middle ground and I think it would be accepted by both sides and you could observe it over the next couple of years, see if it isn't workable. I would urge you to adopt the amendment and maybe settle this issue for awhile.

PRESIDENT: There are twelve members at the present time who are asking...who are on the speaking order and the Chair next recognizes Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if they want a mule skinner for a teacher, let them have a mule skinner for a teacher. Those are not my words. They were spoken here at this very microphone, I think, about fifteen, twenty years ago. It didn't have to do with Christian schools. As I recall, it had to do with Class I school districts. It seems to me that we as legislators have a little more responsibility than that and I am not willing to abdicate my responsibility that easily. If we look at the principles involved here, we have, first of all, the clergy; secondly, the parent; and thirdly, the teacher, and fourthly, the child. Now we are talking now about who is going to shoulder the responsibility. Several years ago we adults couldn't handle integration so we foisted it off onto the children and instituted busing. The adults didn't want to face the issue as they should have and didn't do for many years so we are trying that now. It still seems to me that we as adults should shoulder the responsibility rather than having children do it. In many instances, the first three I named, the clergy, the parent, and the teacher is the same person. In some instances the parent and the teacher are the same person. But nevertheless, the first three don't want to take the responsibility as to organizing, regulating, and running a school the way it