

March 23, 1984

LB 928

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If Senator Peterson was correct in his feeling that there are still schools that will not be able because of their views to comply with this bill, they will still be in the same plight as before and can face prosecution, isn't that correct?

SENATOR VICKERS: I don't think there are any schools out there, in my personal opinion. Now this is my opinion because I don't know, as I indicated I can't speak for everybody because I haven't talked to everybody. My own personal opinion is that if we pass the bill in the form it is right now that all the schools in this state will use it. That is my personal opinion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Vickers. Members of the Legislature, I have reason to believe that there are schools that will not feel that they can comply with this, and if that is the case, then a bill is being passed which is to favor certain religions and place burdens on others. We are making the exemption ostensibly because of religion. There is an organization the initials of which are NAACP or N-double A-C-P and I know most of you think you know what those initials stand for and when you are talking about the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, you are right if you thought that is what they stood for, but they can apply to the Legislature this afternoon, Senator Vard Johnson, the Nebraska Association for the Advancement of Certain People, and those certain people are the schools run by churches that we find not to be so objectionable. So I think when we create a situation that benefits some schools, some religions, that is what we are talking about, and burdens others, we are not solving the problem. We are saying that those others should be in a position where they have got to go to jail for what they believe but not these nice ones, and if the good Catholics, the good Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, Seven Day Adventists, and others who comply with certification laws now can do so, make everybody else do it. That was the first position. Then when the public school teachers started getting certain things that they wanted out of the Legislature, they started kind of loosening up and said that

10501