

SPEAKER: Senator Stahmer, and then Senator Nore, and then Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR STAHMER: Well, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I would like to support this bill by Senator Barnett. I circularized on the desk of the Senators over a year ago an article from the Lincoln newspapers telling about this same plan, but at the same time the educators said we don't need a bill. That we already have the rights and that is why I asked Senator Barnett if the Attorney General had spoken and apparently the Attorney General says, "No, we don't have the right." So I applaud him for pursuing and going beyond what the educators say and finding out what the Attorney Generals say and bring in a bill to accomplish this.

SPEAKER: Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President, and fellow members, I am very dubious about this kind of legislation. The schools are almost now usurping most of the time of the children and some of them hardly know their parents. They are getting down into the grades now where they are running on a basketball and football athletic circuits. Some schools are becoming almost athletic camps instead of schools and I like athletics and I think we can go too far with it. I taught in high school myself and I know what can happen and I wouldn't like to see, probably, a situation where probably the coach would like to have those boys working out for football all summer. Some of the..many...most of the parents need these children on the farms and in the business and it is a good experience for them to get out in the summer and see what things are like outside of school for about three months and this will give the coaches, probably, permission to usurp those children's time the year round. So, the children almost become strange to the home.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Carpenter. The chair recognizes Senator Snyder.

SENATOR SNYDER: Mr. President, members of the body, I would hope that we would give good consideration to Senator Barnett's bill. I personally favor this bill. It is permissive legislation that it would not require each and every school district to have year around schools, but I think we do have to recognize that this world we live in today is much different than when our schools started. The lives have changed considerably and the old thing of having school from September to May just doesn't hold today. There are a couple of things I would like to add to the discussion at this point and I think that they are as important to the rural legislator as they are to the urban legislator. First of all, there are more people off the farms today working at a variety of jobs and their vacation patterns don't necessarily fall in June, July, or August. This legislation would allow the family to take their vacation period in other than the normal summer months and this is being done more and more. Secondly, in the urban areas, we do have a very dire problem, I believe, in finding enough jobs in the summer school vacation months for our teenagers who would like to have employment. When you turn loose several thousands youngsters in these months, you are creating an added hardship on the job market and in many cases, I think, that our rising juvenile delinquency rates could be attributed in these hot summer months to the kids absolutely not having anything to do. I think that on this point, if we were to have a twelve months school available and that the youngsters would have the opportunity of choosing their own months of attendance, I think we would end up with something like four quarters, probably. The child would be required to attend three of the four. He could choose his own vacation period. Of course, this would necessitate them notifying the school officials far enough in advance that they could plan for the school year, as far as number of teachers, curriculum, etc. But, I think