

January 14, 1974

SENATOR CARSTENS: All right, but you say if you weren't transporting them, how would they get to school.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, how would they go?

SENATOR CARSTENS: Well that's what I'm asking.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: A bus.

SENATOR CARSTENS: In other words you have the bussing?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: City busses.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Well then, tell me what the problem is.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well this is what I'm trying to get through, in dealing with it like this. As poor as I am, I'm able to afford to get my children to a school. Suppose a person lived next door to me, because of the school I took him from was inferior. I had to buy text books for him. I will give you an example of why. I used to talk to the teachers about what my children not learning in school, until I found out the textbooks that were available in other schools in Omaha, and I was purchasing the textbook that my children were supposed to be provided with in public schools. My wife and I were trying to teach our children how to read at home when we were paying taxes for them to be educated at school. When I told my child's teacher that I wanted my child to be achieving the same rate at other children throughout the school system, which meant that when they reached a certain point in time they could be at a certain point in the textbook, you know what she did. She began to skip large sections of the text book so that when I came up there they would be able to read a story in the tail end of the book, and that was supposed to trick me into thinking that they had been learning how to read. A lot of it was by rote, a lot of the computing was done by counting on fingers. But there was not the teaching going on, because the teachers did not know how to teach. So I was in a position of having to pay for public education, and I was trying to do the job myself. Pretty soon it became too difficult, because I have three children in school. And I'm not a teacher, so I had to put them in a school where they have a large number of white children and try to get teachers who knew how to teach school. That's why my children don't go to the school they used to go to. Water used to leak through the ceiling in the cafeteria on the table where they made sandwiches. It used to leak through the water fixtures and they had buckets on the floor. It wasn't until I went to the city department of inspection and had them go through the public schools that they made them repair the roof, do something about the wiring. They have mice and rats and roaches in these schools. I'm telling you a lie, you go to them and see traps that they have set out.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Yes, but now you are getting right to the heart of it. How is bussing going to correct these problems.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It will take that child away from that bad situation and put him another one. If they don't want him bussed to white schools, it will make them do something