

SENATOR KOCH: The question I have is why did the committee see fit to strike the language that the committee offered to your committee?

SENATOR NICHOL: The purpose of the bill, Senator Koch, is to change the identity of school buses when they are no longer school buses. In other words, they are painted a certain color that nobody else can use and they have markings on them and devices. Now ordinarily when people are picked up for violating this, it is a driver working for a garage or perhaps a chauffeur for a school district and these people usually don't know the law but those people owning the vehicles usually know what the law is and it was felt in the committee that the owner of this vehicle shall be guilty of the infraction rather than the driver who usually doesn't know what the law is.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Nichol, I think that the committee misunderstands the intent of the bill. Many of these school buses are sold to others, well, they are sold basically for campers and things like that and so the intent of the bill naturally is to cause that transportation vehicle to be painted a color other than that we use for school buses. Now then I can't see very often where someone is going to be operating this piece of equipment who is not the owner. We would like to see the committee amendment not adopted. In other words, what we are saying is the person who operates that bus in disregardant of the bill is going to be subject to the fine. Most all the time people who buy those buses are the owners-operators of them, if you watch them out on the highways. I don't think seldom does anyone have or chauffeuring it or anything of that nature. Most all of them are personally owned by either you or myself or someone else. We buy the bus. We renovate it. We make it into some kind of a vehicle, recreational vehicle, and now we are just saying the owner is the only one responsible but I submit to you in most cases it is going to be the owner who will also be the operator of it and I think that when we strike the provisions that we gave to you that we are really doing nothing more than classifying the fine again and changing it according to the criminal code. I would oppose the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Nichol, do you have anything further?

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I just wish to say that it is a matter of opinion whether you wish to have the owner or the operator fined for the infraction. It was felt by the committee, and I concur, that