

February 12, 1979

LB 131

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this amendment is almost worse, if such is possible, than the original form of the offered bill. First of all, it adds the language "the body of" which still doesn't tell you what is meant and how much of it has to be painted, and then when it narrows a color down to such specificity or specifies it to such an extent as to attach a number, that means any deviation whatsoever puts a person in position of being convicted of a crime. Now I gave the body I thought the opportunity to handle the situation in a wise and statesmanlike fashion by just repealing the entire section. Then the State Department of Education, if they think this issue is serious enough to warrant it, could work with some people by explaining what they want done. Then those people could help draft a provision of statute to accomplish that. If what they want to do is require the taking off of flashing red lights, the stop arm and alter the coloration, that could be done other than the way they are doing it here. But as some of the members have found out, they have seen nonschool bus glossy yellow buses on the highway transporting school students. So all of those buses now are in violation because they are not school bus yellow so they are not school buses. Or are you saying that a school bus need not be yellow but if it is a nonschool bus it had better not be yellow? This amendment does not make sense, and Senator Kahle, by the way, did not draft it. He is trying to help some people who are stumbling and fumbling and bumbling. If you look at the way the State Department of Education handles a simple matter like this and cannot get it together, maybe we all ought to be greatly concerned about what is happening with the education itself. It is not very wise to take a provision like this and say the issue is not that significant so it is taking too much time and we should let them do whatever they want to do, meaning the State Department of Education. But remember what I am trying to tell you, violation of this poorly put together hodgepodge causes a person to be convicted of a crime. You are talking about crimes and punishments this morning and I do not think that what is drafted here as an amendment corrects any of the problems that are envisioned but it worsens the situation. If you want to adopt the amendment, you can. I think I have given as much time as I can give, but on Select File, I am going to offer a motion again to repeal the entire section of statute, and by then perhaps I will have had enough time to explain to enough of you in detail the point that I seem unable to make through discussion on the floor. I don't