

April 25, 1979

LB 221

forty-two third and fourth graders from Norwood Park Elementary School here in Lincoln, two teachers and one parent, Judy Olson, teacher. They are over here in the South balcony. Would they stand and be recognized? Welcome to your Legislature over here. The Chair recognizes Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Ladies and gentlemen, I agree with a great deal of what Senator Koch has so eloquently stated. I guess parents are to blame ultimately although I think we, the state and the federal government put most of those parents in the position where it takes two of them working in order to pay their taxes and stay alive. So maybe the responsibility comes back to this Legislature and to the federal government for forcing the mother out of the home so she cannot attend her child properly. Now I had many of the same problems Senator Koch had. My two sons abandoned what their father deemed proper dress code and they yielded to peer pressure and dressed like their friends and I went along with it up to a point, that point being the day I had to tell my son there was no way I was going to let him wear a brassiere like his friend, but we do have an admitted problem. Senator Koch says this is not the answer and I probably would have to agree, but for years we have known of this problem and we have said, boy, this is a problem and we have got to figure out something. I do not want to go home from this Legislature this year saying, yup, we've got a problem and we have tried to do nothing about it. If this is not an answer, certainly in subsequent years it can be altered but to walk away from this problem one more year and say, maybe next year we will do something, to me is tragic because of the young people who are suffering as the result of some adequate action. I would oppose Senator Koch's motion to kill the first effort this Legislature has ever made to do something constructive about the problem other than wring our hands and say, yup, we've got a problem and we should do something about it. I oppose his motion.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, predictably I am opposed to the kill motion. I agree again with what Senator Koch has said and it troubles me that we, as adults, who will see the ravages in terms of mental disorders, physical incapacitation, societal dislocation will then want to take that very evil and foist it on the children. I think that liquor is one of the worst things that this society must contend with and the fact