

February 28, 1980

LB 304

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, my...Mr. Speaker and members of the body, my amendment is a very friendly amendment. It is a technical amendment. I was looking at the committee amendments to this bill last night and I noticed that they have made some changes with respect to residency determination for aliens and one of the changes that the committee amendments would make is it would require an alien to establish that that alien has a bona fide intention to become a naturalized citizen of the United States. Now there is nothing wrong with that except that you have to be a resident in this country for five years before you can even apply for your citizenship and for naturalization papers. We have a number of aliens in our country who are permanent aliens. They are here, and they are not going to go home, and they are here because they are refugees from Vietnam, from Nelig. They are from a variety of foreign places who, in fact, pay taxes to the state, pay taxes to the federal government, but have not yet been here the five years and even if they were here the five years, we don't yet know exactly what their intentions are with respect to naturalization. Now all my amendment does is just strike the language concerning naturalization and allows any alien who intends to become a permanent resident of this state to show through documentary evidence that he, in fact, is a resident of this state, and shall pay only resident tuition as opposed to nonresident tuition. I should tell you that though my specific amendment I just came up with last night as I was looking this over, the actual problem came to me from a person in Omaha who has worked quite extensively with Vietnamese refugees, and he indicated to me that his refugee aides, or people he was helping, had a very difficult time obtaining resident tuition because of the way the existing laws are structured, and I think that my little amendment makes it quite clear that they certainly can obtain resident tuition privileges.

SENATOR NICHOL PRESIDING

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Landis, did you want to speak to the amendment to the amendment? Senator Keyes, the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, that amendment kind of caught me by surprise. I would rather talk to the amendment to the bill after Senator Johnson's gets defeated or passed.

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay. Senator Dworak, do you want to speak