

February 11, 1981

LB 207

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 207 was offered by the Education Committee and signed by its members. (Read title). The bill was read on January 15. It was referred to the Education Committee for public hearing. It was advanced to General File. At that time, Mr. President, there was a motion to advance the bill which failed on January 29. I now have pending, Mr. President, amendments by Senator Koch. Senator, I understand the amendments on page 380 are to be withdrawn and the amendments on page 471 are the ones that you want to consider. Is that right?

SENATOR KOCH: It is with mixed emotion that I withdraw that amendment, but I may run it again. But you can withdraw it for the present time.

CLERK: Okay, thank you. Mr. President, Senator Koch has amendments that are found on page 471 of the Legislative Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, a week and a half or two weeks ago we discussed the merits of LB 207. At that time it was obvious that there were some concerns in the body about how we could finance the increase as the committee recommended from the interim study, and as I reminded you then when the state decided we were going to subsidize Drivers Education in the schools we did so at \$40, the cost of Drivers Ed at that time was \$59. The cost has escalated over the years to the present state average of about \$152. The committee thought it was proper that we demonstrate to the public schools that we believe in defensive driving and the rules of the road, but there is a merit to those students who take this course. With the help of Senator Warner and his staff we have drafted this amendment, and very basically what the amendment does, first of all it takes away an earmarking of a fund that goes forward to a Driver's Education fund and the money that is derived from licenses goes directly to the general fund, and then there would be an appropriation annually to the Department of Education and to fund those schools who demonstrated that they had X number of students involved, and that is the way it would be done because Senator Johnson had some concerns about earmarking. But I want to say to the body if we are going to get away with the earmarking it will take us a whole session because I think we have got that many earmarks around here someplace. But I am willing to do that to show you I can compromise, and trust old Jerry,