

Supreme Court in the Yoder case, they will be entitled to exemptions as well from the certification provisions of Nebraska law and I don't think any of us here in this body would argue that they would not be entitled to such an exception. So the question that we have before us here today is, do we have that kind of a situation with the kind of religious groups, the so-called Christian Schools from Louisville and elsewhere, that have come down to the Legislature seeking relief from the teacher certification requirements of Nebraska law? Now I think that group, the Louisville group particularly, is a beleaguer group. I think it is a group that find themselves alienated from the American culture of the 1980s for political and social reasons as well as for religious reasons and I think we can see the depth of their political and social as well as religious alienation when we take a look as we did the last time this bill was extensively debated at their teaching materials and we see the extent to which those teaching materials are laced, not just with religious dogma but with political dogma, and I think we have to ask ourselves, are these particular people, these particular alienated people, alienated politically and socially as well as religiously, entitled to the First Amendment religious protection the Wisconsin versus Yoder offers? And I think this is the kind of question all of us have to ask as a legislative policy matter in determining whether or not by means of LB 652 we should grant those Christian Schools, those religious groups, complete exemption, not only from the curriculum requirements of state law but also from the teacher certification requirements. And after considering this question seriously, as I know all of us have, for twelve, thirteen or fourteen months now, my opinion is, no, they should not be entitled to that kind of an exemption. Now I am more than willing, as I have indicated before, to honor their right to practice their own religion. I have no quarrel with that whatsoever. But I am also concerned about protecting their children so that their children will be adequately prepared to meet all of the complexed demands of this modern world and I, personally, have no hesitancy in saying that I think that the state can require that those children spend forty hours every week in an accredited school, whether it is a private school or a public school, so that we can be sure that they are going to receive the kind of preparation that is needed so that they can meet the demands of our life and I, personally, don't think it is too great an infringement of their religious or social freedoms to say to those children of school age that we, the state, are going to require you to spend only forty hours each week attending an accredited public or private school and, of course, we have a lot of excellent accredited private schools, not only