

April 5, 1982

LB 652

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Just to close briefly if I might, Mr. President. I know most of us have made up our minds on this particular issue and we have feelings one way or another about this bill. I think, however, that Senator Landis' proposition that having certified teachers does not have an impact at all or does not improve people performance is nonsensical on its face, at least in my opinion. If we look at the method by which these children are taught in many places around the state, there really are no teachers at all. There are only monitors. There are only people that prowl the aisles and be sure that the students are reading these materials that are furnished by these groups in Texas and elsewhere. Now I think to say that it makes no difference that teachers are certified or not as Senator Remmers argues, if we apply that argument, why why do we need to have teachers certified in the public schools, why do we have to have them certified in the presently certified private schools? To take it a little further, you know, teachers are professionals. They practice a profession. They practice a skill. If requiring that they go to school and attain certification makes no difference in the teaching profession, why would it make any difference in the medical profession or the legal profession or in the accounting profession, and I don't think that Senator Landis is suggesting that we not require that our doctors obtain medical degrees or that our lawyers obtain legal degrees. Now I know that is not entirely fair to Senator Landis' argument but he at least, I think, sets himself up for that counterargument, but in any event, I think all of us are and ought to be most concerned about the students because if we pass this bill we are going to take state government and city government and county government out of the classroom entirely. If we pass this bill, no government at any level is going to have any authority to take a look at what is going on inside that classroom to be sure that something is being taught, and that I think is the greatest danger of all. We have to have some governmental supervisory authority in place, in existence, to be able to assure us, to assure the parents, and to assure everyone else in or society that something of substance is being taught. And I am not convinced that in every basement of every church if there are no certification or curriculum requirements of any kind, why we are going to know that substance is being taught and the children are genuinely being prepared to the best of our ability for participation in this complex world. So I would ask you to vote against this kill motion so we can get onto other matters this session, and with that, we will just turn it over to a vote.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is to indefinitely postpone LB 652. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

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