

November 6, 1981

LR 4

SENATOR CLARK: We are not adjourned. We will go to item #6, resolutions. LR 4 first.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 4 offered by Senator Koch. It is found on page 72 of the Legislative Journal. (Read.)

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, first I want to express my appreciation to those of you who saw fit not to adjourn. I am sure that most of us are familiar with the resolution. It has received much fanfare and probably far more than it deserves. I would remind you that there are those parents who today feel that their children should be educated in an environment which they deem to be most fitting and those parents are individuals who refer themselves as Fundamentalists or Evangelicals or Christians. It is a mixture of various people who have sincere religious beliefs and convictions. The thing that is bothering me and I have been in this issue for quite some time, going back to the first year I was a member of this body in 1975. Senator Kremer on one occasion brought legislation before the Education Committee, Senator Rumery on another occasion and others. The law that today enforces certification and mandatory attendance to schools has been on the books for a hundred years and I am not trying to deny the fact that as legislators we have a compelling interest as it relates to the children of this state. Primarily our interest is that they attend an educational institution up to a certain age. The thing that has bothered me as I have attempted to resolve the issue, but most of all wrestled with my own conscience because a few years ago as an educator and still an educator and I am proud of that fact, I felt that all schools should live within the law and there should be no exceptions and no changes. The law has not been enforced with equity and I think all of you in here believe that once a law is established that there should be an equal force applied to everyone, not any exceptions and the schools we are talking about today number approximately twenty-two in this state and a few are being held in basements of homes. And we have, as policymakers, I think we have an obligation to review the law and the Education Committee is attempting to do that. What I am asking you to do is endorse this resolution which is a very mild resolution and what it merely says in very simple terms is that the Legislature would request of the law enforcement officials that they would temper their actions until this body meets officially in January to try to resolve the issue. The gentlemen who