

High School in Omaha and two teachers. Would all of you please stand. Thank you, folks, for visiting the Legislature today. Senator DeCamp, then Senator Withem.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, Senator Beutler and Senator Carsten spoke a little while ago about a meeting. I also was at a, I guess, a kind of secret meeting this morning. It was over in the southeast corner of the Capitol with the Governor and the Governor made a request and that request was simple. He said, if you cannot support me, will you at least guarantee me that you will keep this issue on a nonpartisan level? And I intend to do that and I ask that you do listen to my arguments at least. I oppose this amendment and I oppose it probably more vigorously than I have opposed or supported maybe any single issue since I have been in the Legislature. Let me tell you why. There are two issues of monumental importance in LB 662. One bill is a reorganization bill which by, number one, the Attorney General's Opinion, is probably unconstitutional. Number two, which is spread out over five years on a confusing plan that I guarantee you and predict will give you all the excitement and problems you had with the Christian school controversy in spades, every year. It is neither fast, it's neither direct, it's neither clean cut, it is nothing. The other half of the bill which my amendment put there is, in my humble opinion, one thousand times as important, as significant, as meaningful as that other reorganization portion of the bill. Let me tell you what it does because I don't think either the media or even individual senators completely appreciate what is in that two-paragraph amendment. Number one, it does what Senator Vickers and others have attempted to do in constitutional amendment after constitutional amendment which is recognize for the first time in law that the financing of education at the primary and secondary level is a state responsibility. How many times have you attempted that one item? It is signed into law. Number two, it states the goal, the goal that a thousand bills have been sponsored on over the years to make sure that no more than a certain quantity of the financing can come from property. We've had constitutional amendments on that. We've had bill after bill for that one goal and it states it and it's in law now. Number three, after stating those goals, after setting the levels it finally does what nobody has been able to do, whether it is the NSEA or the state school boards or Vard Johnson or Loran Schmi: or Cal Carsten or Jerry Warner or John DeCamp, none of us have been