

# SCHOOL BILLS . . .

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Peterson told committee members that LB45 "would require the Commission on Education to waive teacher certification requirements . . . that would interfere with . . . religious precepts."

LB46 would allow private schools that receive no direct or indirect government funding to be exempt from general school laws of the state, Peterson said.

"LB46 requires certain basic courses of instruction that require the children attending the exempted school to be tested annually."

Sen. Cal Carsten of Avoca explained that the intent of his LB160 is to "place concise language" in the state compulsory attendance law.

Carsten said he was "carrying the bill" for Cass County Attorney Ron Moravec. Moravec prosecuted the Rev. Everett Sileven for his operation of an unapproved Christian school in Louisville.

"My intent in asking for this bill is to clarify for everyone that may be affected that will be required," Moravec said, "whether it is to take the present standards that have been set, or whether it is to meet LB45 or LB46, or a combination."

Supporting LB45 and LB46, Wahoo attorney Larry Stunkel testified about the potential legal consequences facing parents if "they have chosen to provide their children with an alternative education which they believe is superior to public schools."

Under current laws, parents can be sentenced to up to three months in jail or fined up to \$500 for not send-

ing their children to a state-approved school.

Under the state juvenile code, such a child also may be cited as "habitually truant," Stunkel said.

"In this particular proceeding, it is possible that before a parent has a day in court . . . the child could be removed from the home pending a hearing on the charges," Stunkel said. "A child found habitually truant could be removed from his home and placed in a foster home or sent to one of Nebraska's youth development centers."

Joe Lutjeharms, state commissioner of education, said "either of these bills . . . would in effect destroy a sound state system of education, which has proven to serve the people of Nebraska very well."

"These two bills would remove all state and local authority to monitor the education provided children in schools which have excused themselves from the state system."

Cecil Reynolds, Texas A & M University faculty member and former UNL Teachers College professor, tested students in five Christian schools in Nebraska. Reynolds testified that the results showed all five schools performing at a level an average of one year above the national norm.

"I would propose that the evaluation of the product is the most convincing method of determining the quality of the education that is being received," Reynolds said. "The product of an education is a student's achievement."

# Nuclear waste . . . .

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Therefore, they no longer satisfy their license requirements, Schlitt said.

"If you happened to be standing right by the cask, you might get some radiation exposure," he said.

Schlitt said he was more concerned about other accident scenarios or mistakes that may have been overlooked. If a cask was punctured in an accident, the protective shielding would be gone and there would be a very strong radioactive field around the area.

Another concern is the combination of fire with possible radiation escape and the release of radioactive material. He said such an accident could occur because of sabotage or because of a collision with another train carrying highly flammable materials.

A very hot fire could melt the shielding of the cask, releasing volatile fission materials and possibly, in ex-

treme heat, plutonium, he said. Contamination and radiation poisoning could occur in such a scenario.

"If the federal regulatory commissions approve the shipments, we accept them," Sam Zimmerman, the division superintendent of Burlington Northern, said. He said the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's ruling satisfied his major concern — that the material can be shipped safely on the rails.

According to Zimmerman, NPPD would provide "chaser cars," which would go ahead of the train by highway and be in constant communication with it. The cars, carrying NPPD security men, would be no more than 15 miles away from the track at any time, he said.

In response to charges that portions of rail along the proposed shipment route are in poor condition, Zimmerman said, those areas have been improved. He said some ties and ballast have been added, although the rail is too expensive to replace.

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