

curiosity I guess for the reasons behind special ordering this particular bill. I noticed this morning that it was not a priority bill of any senator or committee, and I guess on not seeing the Speaker present today, I would just question the need or the absolute necessity of taking this issue up, even though we are in debate now. Maybe Senator Goodrich could give me a reason as to why it was needed to be special ordered. I know that I have approached the Speaker on one occasion for the special ordering of a bill that I thought was important. He consented to do so under a great deal of reluctance but I am curious as to why a bill that was not a priority bill is now being discussed on a special order. Senator Haberman or Senator Goodrich, you might respond to that.

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich, would you like to respond to that?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes, I would be happy to. Rod, there is a bunch of teachers, and in fact this same thing goes for the state system, for example, each year there is a bunch of teachers that want to retire and they have reached the age they are entitled to retirement. In the Omaha system, which is the only one we are dealing with right now, is the group of teachers that want to retire but they can't get that decision made until they know whether or not this particular legislation is going to pass. So we have to do that in time for them to get their notices in and the new contracts...you know, if they are going to retire, then the school system has to get their new hiring contracts lined up and stuff like that.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you, Senator Goodrich. I don't have any fault with the bill. I was just curious as to the necessity of special ordering this particular piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please, then Senator Hall.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, LB 298 does bring us in basically the same sort of buy-back provisions as the rest of the school system, and that was adopted through a bill I had back several years when we upgraded the pre-1968 retirement benefits for teachers and then we allowed them the opportunity to buy back some years when they had under the old system declined coverage in certain cases. What it really amounts to is that the old retirement plan for teachers was so horrible in this state that we have now taken steps to upgrade