

this body gets very, very high and a lot of members don't stay in this body because of the frustration level and the pressures and finally it is just time to get out. Multiply that by a factor of 10 and go through it for 35 years and you're going to have what an average teacher would be going through. We're talking 35 years of working with our nation's youth. And the one thing I'd like to remind the Legislature is what these teachers are doing. They are setting the undertones, the underpinning, if you will, of our future. They are out there giving the basic skills, fighting the social changes. You know, as one senator said, that some families have a hard time dealing with their children and that's right, it is up to the schools many times to deal with that and that falls down to that classroom teacher. And if we want a future that we can look proud to, we've got to do it through education. I think all of us realize that. And when you pay teachers so few in dollars for what they give in return to society, it kind of makes one wonder how we could even question giving them a chance to retire with a little more dignity and a little better retirement program. A couple of other points I'd like to make, we cannot solve and we're going to have this issue come up time and time again, property tax problems. I don't think there is anyone in the body who thinks we don't have to come up with property tax solutions. I don't think any member of the body realizes, thinks that we can come up with a property tax solution this session. We're going to have to look at the tax study when it comes out and we're going to have to make some serious decisions on an overall tax structure. But you can't solve, Senator Johnson, property tax values on the backs of teachers. It can't be done, it shouldn't be done and I suspect it won't be done. In regards to Senator Wesely's comments about judges, I guess I wouldn't stand here today and argue for the retirement benefits on 160 if teachers were given the salary of judges, if teachers were given the staff of judges. If teachers were given what was due...

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** One minute.

**SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS:** ...salarywise, staffwise and supportwise, maybe we wouldn't have to be in this situation of basically begging for some dignity on retirement. And at some point I think the State of Nebraska, and possibly the Legislature, is going to be in a position where we are finally going to recognize that if you want the cream of the crop teaching your children, you get what you pay for, and we're