

have....I wish this body could have held the line so the Governor wouldn't have to veto that amount out. This year I'd much rather spend money on teachers and sustain it on \$15 million, than I would spend \$15 million chasing the federal Medicaid match, but that's where the money went. The biggest problem I have with the whole issue, I was opposed to LB 89 because you couldn't sustain it without raising taxes to pay for it. It was purported to us this is a free way to do it, without raising taxes. What have we come to now? Indirectly we're going to raise taxes to fund the teacher bill. And that's...that's certainly a legitimate thing to do, but I think it's a little indirect way of doing it. As I said back in 1989, if you want to fund that bill, raise the taxes to pay for it, raise the taxes to pay for it. Last year, Senator Lynch is absolutely right, the teachers were very gracious, I may add, in working within budget constraints. This year they are gracious, at least from the appropriations side of the thing, worked within budget constraints. But they're going after the Highway Trust money which will indirectly raise the taxes of the gas taxpayer in the State of Nebraska. I argue that if we want to fund this program, you know \$15 million is not a lot in the scope of things, and the one point...and over \$1 billion cost of education in the State of Nebraska. We've increased state aid to schools, you know, a quarter of a billion dollars since we passed LB 89. There is a lid there. But, you know, it's just one of those things the money isn't there to pay for it anymore. And those people sat there and said to me, several years ago, we want the money now because it's there,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...if it runs out, we'll deal with it. Well now they choose to deal with it by indirectly raising taxes. I would stand here today and also purport a straight sales tax increase to fund teachers salaries. I will support a straight sales tax increase to fund teachers salaries. But I will not be part and parcel of indirectly raising other people's taxes that have no cause and effect to the teachers in the State of Nebraska, that I will stand opposed to. I oppose Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. I wish...unfortunately that's going to be an antiteacher, antieducation amendment, that's very unfortunate. I worked with them, I voted for LB 89 and LB 91 in the final form, so we could afford them. This one, you can afford if you take it away from somebody else. That's what I'm opposed to. I'd oppose the education and opposed to shifting