

passed the amendment out, and this amendment, we can start talking about the concept of whether or not the State of Nebraska wants to circumvent local school boards in setting teachers' salaries. So we can sit back and start talking philosophy on what this Legislature wants to do, instead of debating the rules. You can start talking about, we are not talking about money, we are talking philosophy, and what we want to do on whether or not this body this morning wants to deviate from the norm about where you fund education in this state. What the amendment does, on page 7, line 25, in this section where it says, "Any amounts distributed under this subsection shall be used only for purposes of providing general salary increases which are bargained for...", and then instead of the word "separately from other salary increases", it says, "together with other salary increases...". Then you go on to page 9, and you strike Section 10, which says these funds shall not be considered by the Commission of Industrial Relations in making findings and other things. So, basically, what you are doing when you adopt this amendment is you have adopted just one other state aid distribution formula. You are distributing money on a basis of teachers as opposed to students and equalization, and you are saying this is money the Legislature, whatever the dollar amount is we eventually agree on in here, this is money that is distributed on the basis of teachers that has to go to teachers' salaries. It does not say that it is going to be bargained separately...the way the bill is written right now, I mean the school board negotiates their salary, and then the state comes in with a little extra gravy, some little extra money that is separate from anything the school board does. So, in essence, like Senator Warner said, you pass this bill, you are setting up two sets of bargaining processes because the teachers would negotiate with the local school board, and then they come back in every year and negotiate what level we are going to fund H.E.L.P at. You are setting up two negotiation processes, which doesn't make sense to me. Now I will give you some information, in Nebraska in the last couple of years, believe it or not, these evil school boards that we can't trust giving state aid to have done quite well compared to other states in salary increases. I think in this state, you know, I ran, like many of us did, on a platform of local control, and we talk about that often, but LB 89 is exactly the opposite of local control. I mean, yes, yes, they try and word it and saying that we give the money, then the local school board negotiates it. Well, they negotiate a separate piece of the pie that is totally state money, totally state money. I