

I'll give you another example in my own district. Here we are, we're talking base again, 15,525. We have a new plan, plan 125, which, in essence, can purchase life insurance, can purchase health insurance, use the money as a teacher sees fit for their benefits. That, then, becomes 18,525. The average salary in Grand Island this last year is \$26,447, I got it before I came on the floor this morning and I have no reason to believe that that's not correct. So I think that when we start talking about...and I'm wondering where we have increased education. I just...down the shaft. We have bills for health, we have bills for education coming up, try to improve education. Back to my nursing, a simple problem of even getting a half a million dollars out there for people that are dedicated, very dedicated, just exactly like the teachers, paid far less. Any profession that you want to go out of, I had it in front of me and all of you got it in your offices, many, many that are below the public school. Our tech schools are below the public school and both of those should be raised, but for me to, without...to circumvent the system that we have now and to give that raise, again, in a different fashion than we are treating the universities, the tech schools, right down the line, I very much support Senator Moore. Let's stay within the system, let's try to get as much money as we can out for state aid to education. Since the bulk of the education costs are salaries, keep it there instead of somewhat tricking us into doing something else. I will speak on it a little later. How many of you realize how much increase in pension that we're talking about? Remember the unfunded liability that we had last year, 3.6 million? A \$5,000 increase in salary becomes, I think, 2,400, \$2,500...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: ...increase in retirement benefits a year. A \$6,000 increase in teacher salary becomes \$3,400 plus, nearly \$300 a month. In fact, it would when you increase the social security because that is also taken in consideration on that. So it is a total picture and I very, very much support Senator Moore. Stay within the system, get as much money as we possibly can out, keep our local control and that's where it remains, not to come in...what are we going to do in four years from now? No one has answered that question. Is it going to revert right back to our local property taxpayers? No one has given me an answer of any different. Well, we hope by that time the salaries will be up there, they probably will at 5 percent a year, but we've got to go back and face our local taxpayers in