

deviating from the norm, you're staying with the way you've always done it and you said, school boards, we trust you, we're going to give you some more money for teachers' salaries, we're going to give you the flexibility to do with it as you choose and you will keep teachers negotiating with the local school boards instead of coming here. That's how the bill now stands. Now, I am still going to vote no on the bill today, but with that amendment, I may, in the end...because the bill is going to pass today anyway, whether or not we get it on, probably, but at least now we've cut the heart out of changing the way we've always done in this state, we've cut the heart out of that. Now we can continue to talk about teachers' salaries and talk about money without taking away the control from the local board. So with that, that's what we've done, that's where we are now at, let's see what happens.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have an amendment to the bill. Senator Schmit would move to amend the bill, Mr. President. (Schmit amendment appears on page 1192 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, please.

CLERK: Would you like me to read the amendment, Senator.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Would you please, Mr. Chairman. (sic)

CLERK: (Read Schmit amendment.)

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I had not intended to offer this amendment today because I thought perhaps we'd have a better opportunity to discuss it more fully before I brought it up on the floor. But I believe that this bill has some merit. I believe it has been worked out to a certain degree with some of the principal opponents and proponents, but I want to point out that the bill is of no value unless we know where the money is coming from. I have proposed a bill which would have added 2 percent to the sales tax, State of Nebraska, to be dedicated toward property tax relief and, of course, to do so the majority of that money would go to support schools in the State of Nebraska. I think that if we are going to advance this bill, we must recognize that at some point in time this body must make a commitment as to whether or not we are going to fund the bill and to fund it on a continuing basis. It is a cruel