

questions I want to raise on this bill that I had my light on that I will come back to when we get back on the bill, but in the meantime I'm not sure Senator Schmit's amendment is in the form that would accomplish the sales tax, but I think Senator Schmit is right and, in fact, if you will recall a while back when the story in the press about the reporters were going around asking what the Nebraska state rock and roll song should be, I think perhaps instead of picking one that's there, Senator Schmit should get busy and write, put the music "Designing Eyes", because I think that is the state song this year from having sat on the Appropriations Committee. You're right, there are a lot of people out there with their eyes on that money and I would, for one, stand here and say that we ought to do something for teachers the same as everybody else. On the other hand, I've been telling the teachers that come into my office that I don't think I can support this unless there is some money out there behind it, but just knowing what the demands are out there on the budget and the likelihood of being able to sustain this. So you've got us on an issue we should talk about, Senator Schmit, and I rise to say that if the body is willing to support the money, I'm going to vote to put money behind this, but that's the only way I see us ever getting the teacher salary increases this year. I'll come back to my other issues when we get back on the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. An amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Withem would move to amend Senator Schmit's amendment by reinstating Section 8 of the bill. (Withem amendment is on page 1192 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, this is an attempt to clarify the Schmit amendment. I honestly haven't made up my mind how I'm going to vote on it, but what Senator Schmit is doing is appropriating money into a fund that...the Property Tax Relief Account. The committee amendments took out the Property Tax Relief Account so it is no longer in the bill. This amendment will put that back in so when Senator Schmit appropriates the money it will have the appropriate account to go into that he referenced before. I'm just trying to make the Schmit amendment function if it does get adopted.