

for teachers' salaries and state aid to schools would remain the same, merely the funding would be cut in half. Is that correct?

SENATOR WITHEM: I'm sorry, Senator Lamb, I was trying to answer some other questions here and I didn't hear the full thrust of your question.

SENATOR LAMB: Then, if I understand it correctly, the amount of money that would go to teachers' salaries, the amount of money that would go to state aid to schools would remain the same as under Senator Schmit's proposal but the additional funding would be cut in half from one cent to half cent. Is that correct?

SENATOR WITHEM: That would be correct. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, followed by Senator Moore.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I guess I understand that amendment a little bit better. I have said all along I'm not going to forget my property taxpayers or am I not going to forget all of the other programs that are coming down the pipeline. We are going to have the same proponents probably up here in supporting LB 356, the State Security, and I can name them, programs for help the many, many bills coming out of Health Department and many, many bills coming out of Education Department, and for us to, at this time, say that, well, we need the half a cent or we don't need the half cent, I have said publicly many times, and I still stand behind that, I will support increased state aid to education through the system that we have and I will not support some... a lot of them with tax valuation per student in districts of over \$300,000 per student, 356,000, and so on down the line that are now paying their teachers \$15,000 a year or in that bracket, or \$16,000 plus about \$3,000 worth of benefits, will I ask my taxpayers to support that. So, at this time, I will support support increased state aid to education and I will not support a deviation from that at this point. I have to find that it's justified and I will speak on that a little bit later. But to say that we're going to fund or we're not going to fund right now may be a little bit premature and...but I'm not going to take the money away from my property taxpayers or the people that paid that income tax in and divert it to one large source.