

I rely on them too much. We have Grand Island with a valuation of \$115,000 per student, with a \$26,447 average salary plus benefits, some. Some of that is in there that they have a little unique plan, I must stress that. I have another district right out south of Grand Island with \$104,000 valuation per student, and a teachers salary of \$19,705. I have another district, valuation of \$469,462 behind each student with a salary of \$15,900. Two other rural districts, one with 332,000 valuation and a salary of 15,800, and another one 16 plus the benefits. Those are too low, we all know that. But why should my property taxpayers, and as someone said this morning, Arlene, you know there's nothing fair when it comes to paying for education, and that is exactly right. Why should they be asked to support the base salary, up to 18,000, when those districts with that high a valuation behind the student could very easily pay that. One of the reasons is back to I guess that tenure is a dirty word. But they only keep them two or three years because they don't want to get locked in on that. Partly the association is to blame for those low salaries. Again, I would like to ask Senator Withem or Senator Ashford, or maybe Senator Lynch, I believe he's close to the microphone, do you have any reason to believe that my figures of \$33,682 plus fringe benefits for Westside is wrong?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch, could you respond?

SENATOR NELSON: Or, I'll go on down the list, for Omaha \$30,379 average salary plus the fringes, or Lincoln about 28,500, or for a masters degree in Lincoln or a masters and a BA with 12 years in the service that the salary is \$34,182 plus fringe benefits. I really can't say that I feel those salaries are too low. I do feel that the salaries in the 500 Class I schools and so on, but you take that into consideration. We heard from Senator McFarland a few minutes ago that the state is 46th in salary. I differ with those figures. He must have gotten them from different places than I do. They give it out 42nd in the nation. But when you take into consideration the cost of living I'll take \$25,000 or \$30,000 in Nebraska any day until I will 40,000 in California. But when the cost of living is considered we're 34th in the nation, that's not anything to brag about, but we're not that bad. We hear nothing about the...Lincoln, incidentally, gives \$5,223 fringe benefits over and above anything that is \$27,500 salary. So let's talk apples and apples in this body, let's not just talk around the corner. I remember on my simple nursing bill a few days ago I asked for