

argument would be, how much is enough? I'm not sure how much is enough for anybody. What percentage of an increase is enough for everybody? If we don't want to avoid...if we think teachers are overpaid, or you don't like teachers personally, or there is some experience 20 years ago you had with one that offended you, hopefully separate that out from everything we've been arguing about. Simply put, Senator Nelson, in my opinion I think teachers salaries are lower than they should be in Nebraska. If you took out the Class I teachers who are 18...there are about 3,000 teachers close, 2,600, whatever the number is, I looked for the number, I couldn't find it, about 800 of those were Class I teachers who were paid less than \$18,000. So you can see the large majority, more than two-thirds of the teachers not being paid 18, were not in Class I school districts, first of all. Secondly, I...hopefully am going to get a chance some day, Mr. President and members, to argue about teachers. We've been talking about taxes for two or three days now at the expense of the teachers. To be perfectly frank it's getting to the point where it's a little silly at this point in time, so I'm not going to go any further than that. Appreciate the chance to react to some of the things Senator Nelson mentioned. I will, on closing, I've purposely not stood up and tried to react to everything everybody said to save some time, because I would like to get to a vote on this bill. For all the right reasons we can argue at that time some of those things Senator Nelson is concerned with as well, and I'll be glad, on closing, to specifically, and I've been taking notes, answer any specific questions, not just general, philosophic arguments. Appreciate that. Hopefully I didn't hurt anything any more than it's hurt already.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Further discussion on the Schmit amendment? Senator McFarland, followed by Senator Ashford.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Mr. President, I respectfully call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Schmit, would you care to close on your amendment?