

time for the up or the down vote and so I would suggest that we don't support either Senator Ashford's amendment or Senator Moore's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please, then Senator Ashford.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I kind of like Senator Ashford's amendment. I'm going to vote for it. I realize that 80 percent of that goes for teachers' salary but, like I told the teachers in my district, I would support a little increase for them. What Senator Scott Moore's amendment does is add \$20 million and then Ashford's amendment takes the 20 million and puts 80 million...or 80 percent, which is 16 million, for teachers' salary. I don't think that's too bad an idea because this would at least take care of the poorer salaried teachers, those that are getting less than \$18,000. Somebody said on the floor that it would only take between six and \$7 million to bring every teacher up to the \$18,000 salary level. And I think that's only fair and this amount would go to the, or I feel it should go, to the lowest paid teachers. I don't think that we need to increase teachers' salary when a teacher gets 30 to \$35,000 a year. I think that's doing pretty good. We also need to consider that the cost of living in Nebraska isn't as high as it is in a lot of other states and here we want to bring that salary level up to a lot of the other states. Also, as LB 89 now stands, it would appropriate \$40 million this coming fiscal year and 35 million the following year, but we need to consider that that 40 million also will be in the second year so the cost of this bill is really a \$115 million in the two-year period. If we do that...could I have a...Mr. President...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Please, let's have it quiet so we can hear Senator Hefner. Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you, Mr. President. If we appropriate \$115 million just to increase teachers' salary the next two fiscal years, we won't have anything left for property tax relief. We won't have anything left for property tax relief and that's my number one priority. And how about the rest of you folks? I know a lot of you have said, well, this is the year for property tax relief. But this bill got up before the others and so if we go ahead and advance this bill, we won't have property tax relief this year because if we increase teachers'