

yesterday, the whole front page was dedicated toward LB 89 and their great lobbying corps. But in there it has the LB 89 resolution, the NSEA policy and review, and the resolution was adopted by that delegate assembly in regard to state aid. And let me repeat this that the NSEA supports...you know, they probably like H.E.L.P. a lot better but they do support this. It says, the NSEA supports legislation for state aid to public elementary and secondary schools which, (a), equalizes educational opportunities for all students, equalization aid, which, (b), offers incentives to a school district with that employee and retain experience of well trained professional educators." Well, by giving money to this bill you are allowing them to do that; (c), equalizes taxes for all Nebraska citizens, that goes back to the whole premise that state aid was founded on; and, (d), provides at least one-half of the total operating costs of the public schools in the state. Well, we lose on (d), I'll grant you that, with only \$20 million. But that's the whole thing that I think (inaudible) of us, you know, Senator Chizek's LB 747, Senator Lamb's LB 84, it's a different problem. For the time being, while we work on solving the property tax problem we can do something for education in the state while at the same time not dismantling everything they have always done. Now Senator Withem said we have a well-thought-out, well-reasoned, you know, a good approach to solving our problem. I don't think there is 25 votes to do that on Final Reading, I honestly don't. And I'm probably wrong, been wrong before, wrong again, but this is something if you were smart, you would buy into it. It's the compromise that let's us that are opposed to LB 89, we can...without killing the bill, we can still do something for education through the \$20 million. For those of you that support education at all cost, like I said, you would be doing cartwheels any other year, but this year because of all of this grand surplus money we have we're expecting great things to happen. Well, they're probably not. This amendment is reasonable, it's attainable, it's simple and it's something that satisfies education any other year but for whatever reason this year helps the answer. Well, I think state aid to education through Foundation and Equalization at a \$20 million level is a very strong, mention to all of you, something for education while in the meantime the School Finance Review Commission and others try and solve the whole problem, we're not going to put a whole new thing into place. With that, I ask for a simple adoption of this amendment that will basically say that this Legislature is willing to increase state aid to education by \$20 million in each of the next two fiscal years.