

some things that I feel need to be said that have not been said. They're corny. They're trite. We've heard them before but I believe they're true. In the State of Nebraska, one of the things that we must begin to deal with as a state people, as a people with our children, is that how are we going to stack up and compete when the rest of the world is going great guns in support of education? It is no longer good enough for us to compete among ourselves and say, well, we're doing just as good as the other guy. It is no longer acceptable or good enough to say we're doing as well as anyone else in the country because we have to compete with every other international country as well in the field of science and math and education in general. What kind of priority are we, as people, going to put on the basis of education in our state for our children? One of the arguments I heard quite often on the legislative pay increase was that if the people were kind of disappointed in what they got, maybe Nebraska adage is good, you get what you pay for and we can get maybe a better quality, though I can't imagine that because there is good quality in the session but maybe people could be able to stay longer, maybe people would be able to sacrifice more and we get a better idea. More money attracts better people, possibly. And how can we sit here with straight faces and say we are truly behind education, we want to compete? And we'll come up with excuses of why we don't want to vote for more money. We'll come up with any excuse we want to and you can...in this body, can pick any of the excuses out there and say, no, no, we need a funding mechanism; no, no, we've got to have...we've got to do our state aid first; no, no, whatever one you want. The bottom line is what value, what priority are we, as a body, going to put onto education? And, believe me, the type of quality of teacher, the type of quality of commitment in the teaching field, the type of quality that experience can only bring to a teacher is based directly upon the type of quality input in salary that they can afford to live. And so many of you in this body have said, why are all of our quality teachers leaving and going elsewhere? Why are our children going elsewhere for better education? And there are some answers there and the answers have not been talked about because the question has not been talked about for three days. I would hope, very sincerely, that this body would put...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...as a high priority that this bill, LB 89, not only deserves, it must go to Select File so we can