

achieve the type of income that they want to achieve in the teaching profession. And I don't know if you are like me but there are specific teachers in my life who have made a tremendous difference. I have to say in general that I liked all the teachers I had but there were about two or three that stood out far and above the rest. And had those teachers not been there in the classroom for me, had they left and had they gone into some other profession, because almost all of them were teachers who had been...who had made teaching their entire career, had they not been there for me, I don't think that I would have enjoyed or been stimulated in my educational pursuits half as much had it not been for these two or three individuals. And my hope that this bill can pass so that we could retain the top high quality teachers who will continue and make it a career for their entire lives and stay in the classroom and not leave the classroom because they can make a better salary elsewhere.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: So I would urge you, for that reason, to vote in favor of LB 89 and vote for it for the reason that you think teachers' salaries are too low. Don't vote against it for some kind of rationalized reason that has nothing to do with teachers' salaries. Look at the issue head on, address it. If you vote no because you think teachers don't deserve a salary increase, then that's your vote. I mean, but don't try to rationalize it by saying, well, I'm for teachers' sal...the increase in teachers' salaries but I'm going to vote no because there is not...for some other reason. I don't think that's legitimate, fair or completely honest to do it that way. I would urge you to vote for LB 89. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. There's a very important person over under the north balcony. Please cast your eyes over to that direction. We have five-weeks old Alexa Rae, daughter of Senator and Mrs. Rod Johnson. Would you step out so we can see the...how about that? (Applause.) You probably awakened her with your applause. Thank you. And thank you for bringing her to us today. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: It's only normal that Rod would steal some of my thunder but then I'm getting used to that. Congratulations, Rod, may that be the first of many. I've got seven daughters and I wouldn't trade a one of them off. Anyway, getting back to the issue at hand here, my good friend, Senator McFarland, talks