

about how we should vote for the bill if we think state teachers' salaries are too low. I left the teaching profession more than 30 years ago and I would have to say, as I told Senator Wesely, I would have 39 years under my belt if I would have stuck with it and maybe I should have. But I just want to say this that I don't think there are very many of us here who are not in support of teachers' salaries being sufficient and adequate and in perhaps line with the responsibility. I just want to say that being in agriculture most of us have learned from time to time not to gauge our expenditures upon peak incomes. Those of you who have been here a few years have been brought back sometimes much against our will to cut budgets and to bring budgets in line with income. I would guess that the budget committee and Senator Warner and all the rest of them have tussled with this idea trying to decide what's going to happen this year and what will happen in years to come as they take a look at requests for expenditures. I talked a little bit with Senator Lynch and he has the numbers pretty well...pretty well in hand. But I would just suggest that we know that the '85 farm bill pumped a billion dollars into the State of Nebraska. We know that cattle, at all time high of 79 plus dollars, are pumping a lot of money into the economy. We know that eventually and inevitably the Bush Administration is going to cut back on the farm program and it's going to make a big difference in the sales tax collections for the State of Nebraska. I hope not but I'm afraid that we will see reduction in the cattle prices some time but not, hopefully, right away, hopefully, not for a long time but inevitably cattle prices do come down. When that happens and the revenue for the State of Nebraska declines it is inevitable that we are going to have to cut expenditures. When that happens there will be all sorts of these expenditures that are going to be on the chopping block. Now the question I ask you is this, are you going to expect the teachers to take a salary cut? I think not. I do not think you can expect that. So then what is the alternative? The alternative will be that which we know will be...that it will be perhaps no other alternative a substantial increase in the property tax to support the program. There will be no other alternative. I offered to you this morning an opportunity to lock in, including the inflationary factor, 1 percent of sales tax which would have funded the program. If I were to give Senator McFarland a brand new Cadillac with the first month's payment made and tell him, you just go ahead and keep up the rest, Mac, but remember you got it from me, he would not think it was much of a bargain, but the second time or the third time