

April 18, 1989

LB 89

weeks ago and I passed out the explanation of it yesterday, with some accompanying material. This amendment was an amendment I drafted to basically try and solve what would happen to be my problems to LB 89. Even though I have been accused and maligned for not supporting LB 89, my consistent ring all the way through has been that, yes, I do want to do something for the teachers in the State of Nebraska. I think we have somewhat of a problem there by simply disagreeing on the method LB 89 uses by mandating minimum salaries by the State of Nebraska. That's a path I simply think is very, very unwise for the state to take and because of that reason, that reason in itself I am opposed to LB 89. Obviously, from the beginning, back in January one of the first things I said was you can't sustain LB 89. The teachers, particularly the Nebraska State Education Association, went across the state and said that, yes, you can do all of this without raising taxes. And there was...I was one of the number of people who kept continuing to say, no, you can't do that unless you raise taxes. And I was criticized roundly by local education associations for questioning whether or not there was enough money to fund LB 89 in its original form. As you can see by...if you've read the papers in the last couple days, the introducers of LB 89 and supporters of the bill have whittled that bill's price tag down to about a \$25 million figure, a figure that when I spoke about it in January I was booed and hissed as being anti-education and not being in support of education. And I think maybe the fact that some of us were reasonable from the beginning, we got chastised for doing so. But now it seems like the...at least there are some people that are starting to believe the dollar figure. Well, as I mentioned yesterday in what I sent out, I filed this amendment, I introduced the amendment with the hope that we could find some compromise to work on this bill. As I have been mentioned, I sent a memo out to the supporters of LB 89. I sent a memo to the Nebraska State Education Association and that memo basically went unanswered. With some few nibblings by lobbyists for the NSEA, I was basically ignored as I tried to find something that would actually work. I think all of you were like me, this weekend when you picked up...you picked up Sunday's Lincoln paper you read the headline that those of us who were opposed to LB 89 will be targeted for defeat in our next election. Now you probably in the ensuing time yesterday had a chance to read over the actual context of what was actually said but I guess I, for one, don't think Jack Kennedy was erroneous on he reported that. I think it was very clear of the intention that was there. The threat was very clear that if