

think about what they do at the next election. I only point that out to say that this is nothing new. It's happened forever. Sometimes it's more personal than it needs to be and that's unfortunate. But I would hope we would look beyond that. I would hope we would look at what this system needs in Nebraska and then also what the teachers deserve for salaries. One of the handouts I passed out indicates a survey, for example, of starting salaries and how they expect to grow by 3.5 percent. It lists chemical engineers and computer operators, physics, geology and nursing. Any teacher who can get through a teacher's course in college, the university, can, of course, become anyone of these professionals as well. All of those begin at much higher than what teachers make. Simply put, what I would like to ask for your support for, and I know it's late, but, hopefully, we can get through this amendment and consider any others that might be there, was to support this amendment that would drop the Phase I funding from 18,000 to 17,000 and would...would also contain an amendment that would change the first year funding in '88-89 to 25 million and the \$75 million funding in '90 and '91 to 25 million, in other words a constant 25 million. Can we afford this without raising taxes? Well, can we afford 84 without raising taxes? Can we afford \$70 million in capital construction without raising taxes? You see, don't use just this issue as an excuse or a reason to talk about raising taxes, talk about the total spending package. Hopefully, the importance of this issue and the need for reasonable teacher salaries in this state, reasonable teacher salaries. I'm not going to and I don't intend to get involved in details on a lot of the issues until it's necessary as other amendments may develop. But all I can tell you is I don't think we should be very proud of ourself in Nebraska with what we use as excuses to reimburse our teachers. I would ask for your support. Hopefully, you would agree with me that this is a reasonable amendment. This is my only amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. For discussion purposes. Excuse me, an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Senator Conway would move to amend Senator Lynch's amendment. (Conway amendment appears on page 1762 of the Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Conway, please.

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. Speaker and members, on your desk you will