them money to get them up to that. But there would have been no mandatory language, simply distribute the money out to the school districts saying, here's the money to do that, now if in your infinite wisdom you decide to do that, that would be the encouragement we would give you, but we're not going to say in statute, thou shall have an $18,000 minimum salary. See, Phase I has always been my problem with the bill. Now Senator Conway's amendment strikes Phase I from the bill and I guess for that reason I'm going to support Senator Conway's amendment, to begin with, to at least make it very clear that this Legislature cannot live with Section 5 of the bill. I think that's what Senator Conway's amendment should be a litmus test on whether or not the State of Nebraska is going to put in statute a minimum salary. Now after we have fought that battle, after we have made that statement, then we can talk about, you know, funding levels; then we can talk about distribution methods; then we can talk about, I think Senator Lamb has an amendment on state aid to education. For the time being and in reaction to a lot of things that have been said, I think it's time that we really have a litmus test vote on whether or not the State of Nebraska is going to set a minimum salary in statute. I think Senator Conway's amendment is that litmus test. For that reason, I will be supporting Senator Conway's amendment so we can strike Section 5 from the bill, either way, I guess we can talk some more and I don't know if we'll get done with this tonight but, in the meantime, let's right now, here and now, set forth and set the record straight that we're going to strike Section 5 from the bill and, for that reason, I will support Senator Conway's amendment.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Lynch. Go ahead.

SENATOR LYNCH: I rise to challenge the germaneness of the amendment for at least two reasons. It's substantially different from the amendment itself. It strikes, in fact, Phase I of the bill and it's the kind of an amendment that should probably be addressed as we discuss the bill itself.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Conway, do you wish to respond to the germaneness of your amendment to the Lynch amendment?

SENATOR CONWAY: Madam President, thank you. There's not a whole lot to respond to. It strikes a section and it changes a couple of numbers within the bill...in the amendment that Senator Lynch has. So there's not much argument other than the