

problem with this bill. It's whether or not we're going to erode local control and I'm not supportive of Senator Moore's amendment, Senator Conway's amendment or Senator Lynch's amendment because we're getting down into details here and we're not talking about the basic philosophical problem with the bill. Are we going to erode that local control? Are we going to say to those school board, in essence, you're going to pay this amount to your teacher or you're going to be encouraged to pay this amount to your teacher? This is...this is the basic problem with this approach, in my opinion. Now when you go...when you talk to your school board members out there in your district, what do they complain about? One of the biggest complaints they have is that the state mandates too many things for the local board, for the local school. They mandate too many things. The local board doesn't have very much control out there now and this bill is going right down that line. It's saying, you school board members, you local people, you're going to have less control than you had before and that is the problem, that should not be allowed to happen. I would urge all of you to think about that when you consider these amendments which are really details that really don't attack the philosophical problem that we should be considering in this bill. Are you going to erode that local control? Yes, you are with any of these amendments that have been proposed today. Now if you get down to an amendment which is strictly state aid to schools to allow those...allow those school board members to decide whether it's in the best interests of those children to buy more books or to pay the teachers more, that's when we get down to a substantial debate and that's where we get down to the question of whether or not we should provide more money. But we should not be providing...earmarking money directly to those teachers. We should not be bypassing those school boards and I hope you will defeat all these amendments that do not attack that basic problem.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith, would you care to discuss the amendment? Thank you. Senator Moore, followed by Senators Senator Bernard-Stevens, Hefner and Rogers.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, and you all know when you're here and you're all going to go back there and you're going to hear that just vote for Senator Lynch's amendment, just vote for Senator Lynch's amendment, get the money down and solve our problems for now. You know, after Lynch's amendment gets on, the next thing you're going to hear