

to increase our state aid to schools and then let the local school board decide what teachers get that increase. But what disturbed me more in all was this article that I saw in the Lincoln Sunday paper, but before I saw this in the paper, I heard it on the radio on my way back to Lincoln Sunday night and that really disturbed me. They're threatening us, as state lawmakers, they're threatening us, they're intimidating us and I think that's wrong. The NSEA has gotten so powerful that I feel they're about out of control. And when I came back yesterday morning I checked a little bit and I found that four of the co-sponsors here received nearly \$25,000, received nearly \$25,000 in their election campaigns or reelection campaigns. Also, we have another co-sponsor of the bill whose spouse works for NSEA and lobbies on this bill. So those are the odds that we're against. Those are the odds that we're against in this Legislature. And I don't think that we have a level playing field here. And so I passed out the NSEA accountability report yesterday morning and I realize that a couple of the senators got real angry. They said I was hitting below the belt. And maybe I was and if I was, Senator Lynch, and some of the others, I apologize for that but I thought it needed to be brought out. Also, we are using taxpayer dollars to collect these union dues. These school boards, these local school boards that we have and school administrators are collecting these union dues and remitting them to NSEA. I thought you ought to know about that. Here we're talking about our property taxes being too high and this is one of the uses. So it looks to me like NSEA, the powerful teachers' lobby, is trying to buy legislation and I think that's wrong and I think you ought to know about it. And so I'm going to oppose this amendment and oppose the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rogers, followed by Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ROGERS: Senator Lynch, Mr. Speaker, would you respond to a question?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch, please.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes.

SENATOR ROGERS: With the dollars that's in your amendment, how many years does this go on, Senator Lynch? How many years will this state funding go back to the schools?

SENATOR LYNCH: How many years?