

priority in my race was education. And, unfortunately, Senator Hefner, while you have been in this body, the State of Nebraska has abrogated its responsibility to education on the primary and secondary level year after year after year. And one of my strong beliefs is that we must, as a state, come to grips with the problem of education on the primary and secondary level. Each year we appropriate millions of dollars on the...on the university level, state college level and we ignore the problem of the primary and secondary education. I was very interested in and followed closely the actions of Governor Branstad in Iowa and I have been informed by the NSEA that he, a good Republican, conservative Republican, will probably receive the maximum in support from them when he runs for Governor next time because Governor Branstad made a commitment as a Republican, as a conservative Republican, made a commitment to primary and secondary education in the State of Iowa. And I believe that that is the issue. It's...it's...the issue is a commitment by the State of Nebraska because it is a state issue, it is a state responsibility. When we cloud the issue of whether or not we are going to appropriate money for primary and secondary education and teachers' salaries with the debate over who gave what political contributions to whom, we really are throwing smoke at what is a central and critical issue in our state. And I hope that we approach the Lynch amendment properly. I think that Senator Lynch has addressed the problem reasonably. He has negotiated a figure which is reasonable under any analysis of our budget for this next biennium and he has come up with a number that we can all work with. And I certainly agree with Senator Withem in his analysis that we need to take into consideration all of the philosophical views of how to deal with teachers' salaries, whether it be Senator Moore's idea, whether it be Senator Lamb's or Senator Nelson's, but I think we, as a body today, have to make the kind of commitment albeit relatively small compared to the commitment that has been made in our surrounding states, especially Iowa, to primary and secondary education. One of the great frustrations I have had in this body, and I have to bring this home to my area in Omaha, is the business community in Omaha and their failure to come to grips with the problems of primary and secondary education. I have consistently supported the position of the Omaha business community in attempting to provide business incentives for Omaha businesses to grow. And I have asked in return for the last two years that they take a good responsible and solid view of primary and secondary education and of property tax and coming to grips with the problems of our primary and secondary