

April 18, 1989

LB 89

education in the State of Nebraska. And they have failed over and over again...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...to come to grips with that. And I call on the business community in my district in Omaha again to look at this issue constructively and I would ask the body as well to vote the Lynch amendment up and to advance the bill at the \$25 million level because it is a very reasonable level to commit to primary and secondary education in our state, much, much less than has been committed in the states surrounding Nebraska but still a start. And I call on the business community in our state to join together with the education groups to come up with a statewide policy so that we can...we can, into the future, provide a source of funding and a commitment to funding that will sustain itself and will provide quality education on an ongoing basis. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, followed by Senators Abboud, Smith and Withem.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I will just take a minute but I have to react briefly to a couple of things. I support Senator Hefner. I support Senator Lamb's observation that we need local control, because that's exactly what this bill does. It gives the money to the school boards and they negotiate with the teachers about how they are going to get. About as simple as that. Make any more out of that than you want to. If you're going to argue, for example, that the school boards are, obviously, the most...the most obvious body with all of the integrity endowed that the Lord could give anyone, consider this. I was a party to a lawsuit a long time ago that mandated that school boards had to educate everybody, not just those who were easy, not just those who were easy. If you were a little slow or if you were retarded, if you were mentally ill or had a head injury, you know, they didn't want to have anything to do with you. These wonderful school boards didn't want to have anything to do with you because it was tough to educate you. They say, stay at home, stay at home with your mom and dad. If you don't have a mom and dad, go to an institution but get the hell out of my sight. That's school boards. That's school boards. Think about that. So what do we do today? We develop special education money and we earmark it to make darn sure that those kind of kids that are tough to teach are taught.