

hands? I do. Shall debate cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Shall debate cease? Record, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Lynch, would you care to close.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President, I would like to yield the first minute or two, professor, only to Bernard-Stevens.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Lynch, for giving me at least a couple of minutes. I think most of the body have relatively made up their mind at least to some degree what they're going to do on the Lynch amendment, though maybe some people are still hanging a little loose to see what shape the bill will be in when it gets to Final Reading, particularly with the tax structure and everything else in the appropriations bills that will be coming through. One thing I would ask the body, at least on this vote, just on this vote, is to ask yourself if businesses think that competition and paying for the best people to be entrepreneurs to guide their employees to make the best possible product, that they believe getting the best type of pay will help them succeed, then I would think conservative Republicans, liberal Republicans, conservative, liberal Democrats would learn and we would take that principle into education. And we're not saying, let's bring capitalism into education but we're saying, who has probably the most influence on whether or not our children learn? Who has the most influence, whether it's in Senator Lamb's small districts, whether it's in North Platte larger district, Omaha, public, or wherever, who has the biggest influence over your children, your grandchildren or our future children? And the answer is that instructor. And, ladies and gentlemen, I don't care what excuse you want to use, I don't care if you want to say, Senator Nelson, that so and so has a million dollar valuation and they pay them less, use that excuse if you want. I don't care, Senator Lamb, if you want to say that we want local control and this is abusing that, use that if you want. The final analysis is you can't solve all of your personal problems with education on teacher pay. Solve that in other areas but not here. You can't solve them all here but you can effectively use them for excuses. The bottom line is if you believe that you in Nebraska