

quality education in exchange for what I perceive as an increase in salary. I mean, that's all I can see this bill as being. So this has been a problem with me all the while. I don't think that we really have addressed what we really believe is our concern in the state and that is, by giving this increase in salary how are we going to assure that we're going to have quality teachers only teaching in our schools? I realize there are a lot of excellent teachers out there, but I also know that there has to be some way of assuring that all of our teachers then, in fact, if they are going to receive the same salary as our good, good teachers, there has to be something that is going to make sure that we have a commitment to see that those people that are not doing the job are not being unfairly salaried versus those that are doing a good job. I'm not saying that very well but that is basically a concern that I have had and that is why I had a number of amendments that I tried to work out which did not receive enough support in order to get anywhere with them and so I didn't introduce those amendments but, in talking with Senator Withem this morning, we did discuss the fact that we do want to look at that issue somewhere down the line and I'm going to trust in the fact that Senator Withem, as the Chairman of the Education Committee has told me, that he agrees that we will be looking at that and I'm going to trust that we will do it, so I'm going to go along with it. The other thing I'm going to do is go along with this compromise. The \$20 million was my limit, as far as I felt I could go and that's where we're at right now in this amendment. I am not totally happy with this, I think that none of us really are. Those people that were introducers of the bill are not really happy with what we're coming up with. But I do think that...I want to express that I think that in this compromise that I am going to support with the Conway amendment, that I don't...I would rather not set in place what would effectively become a base at the end of the period of time when this funding is, I guess you could say concluded, because then I think that we also are effectively setting in place, unless we do something about this in another area, what could become a property tax increase and I can tell you that regardless of what any of you say in here about all the money we have in the state, it's really almost strange that this morning in my Hastings Tribune, which is today's paper, there is a big article about...and the headline says, "Schools Aid Law Makes Tax Hike Likely in Hastings", and they're talking here about the declining enrollment in the Hastings public schools which is going to result in a 3 percent increase in taxes next year in Hastings. They have had a tax increase year after year