

whatever, and they were there. I'm sure it will put some pressure on that category, but I don't know how you'd ever really be able to link it specifically and say that. The private schools pay what they can afford and if they have membership commitment internally, they seem to find teachers. But I can't help but think it will put some pressure, but I think that, again, is a different category also.

SENATOR DIERKS: Philosophically, Senator Conway, what do you feel about state being involved with paying teachers' salaries. Does this not come awfully close to socialism? Is this not...I just wonder what your philosophy is about that.

SENATOR CONWAY: First of all, and it goes back, and this comes up in several aspects of education from time to time but I think in many cases we have to recognize that we, as a state, are the prime responsible entity for education in totality, and we've farmed that out to the individuals to try to conduct education to the best of their ability. Over the years we found that the property tax base, in and of itself, cannot support it. Many communities would like to do more for qualitative education, would like to do more for their education in general, but they are maxed out in terms of their taxing authority and their taxing base to do that. I view this as helping them out without a great deal of interference. I think originally, the bill, there was some interference. There was mandated minimums and that technique, but here we've provided an incentive to try to help them out...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CONWAY: ...rather than interfering in a great extent.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you. I have to commend you. I think you've done an excellent job in putting this thing together. I appreciate the fact that the first-year teachers and second-year teachers may have a little better advantage here. I also appreciate the fact that the total bill has been reduced a little bit, and I'm still trying to make my mind on support or not. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, Senator Hefner on deck.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, would