

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, thank you, Senator Lamb. You know, as I said before, I'm very frustrated because I don't like the formula. I know, we all know in here, every one of us in here knows where this money is going to go. It's going to go to those that are already receiving the highest salaries and that's what bothers me. I wish there were some way, although I believe it's too late, and my staff were over here on the side and we were talking about all these ideas and it's too late now and that's my frustration that we are not doing something...on one hand I agree with you totally. We can't say that in Nebraska, because of the geographic difference of the state, we all know what all those, the economy of the state is in the east versus central and western part of Nebraska, the living standards, the income, the average income is higher in the eastern part of Nebraska. We can't say that every teacher across the state should have what another teacher is receiving because it's not practical. The average income of the people that are supporting that teacher in the other parts of the state would be much, much less and we have to look out for all the people in our districts and across the State of Nebraska. But I want to do this, I want to agree with this amendment and I want to support it, but I want to try to see if we can't do something in here to make it more fair so that some of this money stays in the rest of Nebraska, that it doesn't all just go...one of the things that we looked at here in our information, for instance, is the fact that in the Class I schools in my district we have kind of a...not a high number of master's degrees, but we actually have a percentage of master's degrees. The Class Is have 8 percent of the master's degrees. What are they being paid right now? If they are only being paid 14,000 out there, they are not going to be eligible for anything even with this formula because unless that district is willing to come up to that amount. So see, that's still some of the discrepancies in it and I don't know if we can do anything to change that or not, but that's some of the problems that I think we still have to deal with. The other thing is that it was mentioned by Senator Bernard-Stevens that at the end of this period of time, boards will understand if there is not the money there, they'll understand, they know what to do, we have all these examples of how we'll just simply forget this...that we had this pool of money and we'll all go back to being what we were before. We all know that can't be. It doesn't work that way. They may forget that and they would want to, no doubt. The teachers are not going to forget. They are not going to be willing to settle for anything less than what they are going to get now. So I