

to schools, let the school board decide what they are going to use that money for. Senator Bernard-Stevens says this amendment takes away that argument that local control is being eroded. I disagree, I disagree because this money is earmarked for teachers' salaries, so those school board members do not have an opportunity to use them for some other educational need that may be in the district. Maybe they need books worse than they need higher priced teachers, I don't know, but I think that local school board should have that option. But if the Conway amendment is going to go, I don't know if it is going to go or not, it should have this sparsity amendment or some similar amendment on it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Pirsch, please, on the Lamb amendment.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to, regretfully, oppose Senator Lamb's amendment. I say that because I understand his predicament but the sparsity of population does not necessarily mean the unaffordability to pay your teachers and I think elementary teachers ought to make the most money, quite frankly. I think they ought to make more than secondary teachers and administrators because they are the base of all future learning. I realize that is off the point but I think it is very important and particularly those teachers that are in the less populous places often have more burdens on them than those who have supervisors and other people to do part of the work. One thing that I like about Senator Conway's amendment is that it does give the local schools incentive with control, the aid is given specifically for the teacher and it is a definite amount that we can plan on in our budgeting, and it goes to those districts that have made a commitment to education and to the payment of teachers that are giving their children that education. I think I will take this opportunity also to say that I voted for LB 89 on the first General File but I am glad that there has been some negotiation and some compromise on it. If you look carefully at these letters of support that we got from the help...people, some supported LB 89 but many others did not specifically say that 89 was what was important. What they did stress was the need for some kind of help to the general cause of education. Back in 1980, I supported those significant amounts of state aid to education as well as property tax that we did at that time and while that was not specifically earmarked, it did help, as you can see with some of Scott Moore's material, with the fact that not only did we help education in general but we also allowed teachers to be paid