

care to discuss the Conway amendment? Senator Withem on deck, Senator Abboud in the hold.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I just...I wasn't going to speak on anything today but I think that...what I think we're doing with the Conway amendment, I think we're setting a minimal salary, that's the minimum salary and I think it gives the school boards a chance to look at that. Do we want to be? Then if they do, they will kick into this \$20 million this year and \$20 million next year. So it sets a...to me, it sets a minimum salary that we're going to pay...or school boards can look at across the...across the state and I think that, Senator...I want to address some remarks that Senator Smith made earlier and Senator Nelson is that probably what...with the senators that have a master's degree in the small schools, one of the things that maybe they lack, Senator Smith, is maybe someone...you know, they're kind of a body negotiating by themselves and maybe they need, you know, that's...and I guess I was in that situation. I was a teacher a long time...like yourself, a long time ago before negotiations started. In fact, I started in the fifties and my salary was \$3,200 and Senator Baack said I was probably overpaid at that time, which I will...won't argue with him. But I think another thing, I think a point that you made and I think...is about helping the teacher or guaranteeing that we have good teachers in the...in the school districts across this state. And I guess I would...I would recommend to you and to the members of the body is there is an excellent, excellent program on public television that's every Monday night and I am able to pick up Nebraska and Iowa public television. One time it's on at seven o'clock, the other one is at nine, and it's called Learning in America. And the last two segments had been dealing with teachers and I think one segment about helping teachers. I think it's from the Toledo public school district in Ohio, how they have regular teachers go back and help, you know, teachers that have been identified as needing help and it's been with the cooperation of the association. And I think that our Research Division, talking to some of them, are going to have that...that tape available. So I think that's something that I think we need to look at, and Senator Withem, that we really have to guarantee and I think the point that they made in their...the video tape from Toledo is that they have teachers who left the classroom that help these other teachers and it seems to be working with most of them. And I think it's part of their negotiation because, you know, Toledo, Ohio, itself, and Toledo,