

have already addressed the property tax issue this morning. We all keep talking about that. Yes, I know this is something separate from the issue of salary enhancement, Senator Bernard-Stevens, but this is an opportunity for us one more time to try to give a good faith effort to the fact that we really do believe we do need to increase state aid to education and to the tune of \$20 million that should be something that would give them some leeway to lower their property taxes and to enhance teachers' salaries. I will support it, as I said. I will also continue to support the bill though, quite honestly, even if it's not adopted because Senator Hartnett struck a cord in me the other day...I told him a little bit ago, with the last statement that he made when he was talking with me on the floor and that is that we want to try to attract people who really care about the impact they can make on a child's life and then all of a sudden I was shocked back into remembering what the purpose of a teacher really is and that is the most important thing that ever, I think, happens to a child is the quality of the teacher that they have teaching them. So, even though I do support your idea, I think we need to deal with it somewhere so I'm going to vote for it here. I don't think you're going to get enough votes on it right here but try it somewhere else if you would, please, and I will support you again.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore, would you care to discuss the amendment? Senator Lynch on deck.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, now Senator Lamb is introducing the same amendment I introduced on General File and he is using the same arguments that I used at that time. Well, believe it or not, I'm going to oppose Senator Lamb's amendment, and the reason I'm going to do that is very simple. You know, you can spend \$20 million on foundation and equalization aid or you can spend \$20 million in the...I'm going to call it the new state aid, categorical aid formula we have developed in LB 89 as it now stands. Well, the reason I happen to like the \$20 million in LB 89 is that you can actually say that this is \$20 million the State of Nebraska is going to increase spending in education. Now we all know when you throw money into state aid all of us like to go home and beat our chests and say, we're doing something for property tax relief. Well, I think that should be a separate issue. Obviously, we have LB 84 and other bills coming down the pike that are going to deal with property taxes. I think this Legislature this year has to decide how much money we want to increase spending on education. I think