

I don't see Senator Wesely.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I very much support Senator Smith. This has been one of my concerns all the time. I did sit in on that this morning. This was a point that the rich get richer, the poor is going to get poorer, and that is exactly what this apportion of the funding in the Conway amendment. It is in a matter of cooperation but there are 40 other people in this body that did not sit in on the discussion this morning. As far as to spend another 30 minutes on this bill, I can think of one a few weeks ago that we probably spent three unnecessary days on it. So that part, but Senator Smith has a very good point. I can't give Senator Withem the figures on his particular district, but I can on the original proposal which was \$1,967 full time. Grand Island would have got \$977,000; Omaha, \$5,432,000; Lincoln, \$3,638,000. I just chose Kenesaw, Nebraska, an average Class III school, \$39,340; Senator Dierks, O'Neill, \$116,000. So where do you think the money is going to go? But that is not the point, I am not picking urban and rural in this case, but the whole point that NSEA has made time and time again, and that they have led the public to believe, that the teachers are only making \$18,000 out there or less, and we must address those teachers that are \$18,000 and under, bring them up. What we are doing is we are subsidizing in this bill, of which is the Omahas, the Lincolns, even somewhat Grand Island, Hastings, North Platte, the teachers that are now making \$30,000 a year, and we are going to increase their slice proportionately greater, and yet we are going to take it out of the hides of the lower teachers that need to be paid. Some of those districts, I fully agree, they can pay that salary. They have the ability, and I did point out valuation behind a student today, but a lot of that valuation is mortgaged valuation. That is not clear income off of that valuation of those dollars behind that student, as far as tax valuation or property. So I very much support Senator Smith. We need something to encourage those rural districts, and they are not all rural, the small Class IIs and Class IIIs to bring their salaries up, and they are the ones. A person that is making \$18,000 a year or 22 needs another \$2,000 a heck of a lot worse than the teacher that is making \$35,000, and in this proportion, that teacher that is making 35 now or 33 will be getting four or five thousand, and the little one will be getting a little teaspoon out of the gallon of honey. And so I very much support Senator Smith and I think that this is something that we need to address and to look at because the whole thing again is weighted