

today. Here we come in with a strictly urban bill. This gives more pay to those teachers that are already highly paid teachers. It doesn't do anything for those in the areas where they are paid less. So if you want to pass it, go ahead, but this is not the way to do it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, followed by Senator Conway.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President, fellow senators. I don't think we need to go into the rural-urban split again on this bill. The bill was supposed to be designed to help all teachers. I was there at the meeting this morning and I left at nine o'clock because I saw a lot of different things going on and it looked like the people were too far apart to ever come to any kind of consensus or resolution of the problem. Furthermore, I had to be down here at the Chamber at nine o'clock. I am troubled by the whole way this bill has been processed today, by some meeting before nine o'clock to come up with some kind of ultimate resolution of the thing. The idea of the meeting, as I understood it, was to get some kind of consensus so that the amendment would be added, and then there would be no further amendments to the bill. There is a lot of uncertainty as to what this bill is going to do right now, and I am anxiously awaiting what the data will reveal when we actually put this amendment into effect. I can tell you I am very concerned about the whole process. I don't think this bill has been treated in a very rational or logical way of legislation, and it seems to me you have a group of four or five or six senators who are controlling the whole destiny of this bill, and the bill is substantially changed from what it was initially intended to do. That was initially the bill that I signed on as a co-sponsor. I probably will vote to advance the bill. I am not at all comfortable with the bill, and between now and Final Reading, it would not take a lot of persuasive arguments to get me to say that the bill should be further amended. Frankly, I thought the perfect form and the reasonable form was Senator Lynch's amendment yesterday that talked the \$25 million allocation the first year, the \$25 million dollar allocation the second year. That was voted upon by 25 senators in this body who approved that. I think it may have even been more than 25. I don't recall the exact vote. I thought that issue was decided. I thought it was reasonable. I thought it was a fair amount. It was not excessive. The mechanism was in place, and now we are going about with all this conjecture on the floor