

they would have to find that \$18,000 themselves. There was also concern on their part that they honestly felt that given the fact that they have two students, five students, ten students that the teachers really weren't worth that much money, or they didn't think they should have to pay those kinds of dollars. We met a number of times on the issue. The last time we met we were able to negotiate, and Senator Conway offered a compromise, and that in effect is the bill we have to consider today. Simply states that minimum salary of \$16,000, Phase I, is out, only Phase II is in. It's been reduced from the 150 back to the 100 for teachers, which is now 20 million a year for teachers, earmarked to the districts on a formula basis. It's already been discussed enough on the floor. I'd just like to point out that I certainly understand and respect some of the amendments that will be offered. I will, at the appropriate time, when those amendments are discussed, offer hopefully some debate and arguments that will convince you that they should not be...the bill should not be brought back for those amendments. Hopefully, you will agree with me. Hopefully, it won't take too long, but I understand we have to discuss these amendments. So, with that, it is...I just want to let all of you know, and those of you hopefully that are supporting the legislation, that the bill should pass in its present form, as compromised over and over again, reduced to its present form from what it originally was to \$20 million. With that, I would also respectfully suggest to you that have amendments that I feel obliged to tell you now that I do have to oppose all of them, and hopefully none will be successful and the bill will stay intact. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, it's withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is by Senator Smith. Senator, I have a note that you wish to withdraw this amendment and substitute AM1649, is that correct, Senator?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, excuse me, yes.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Request for unanimous consent, Senator Smith, to withdraw your amendment and substitute another?

SENATOR SMITH: That's correct.

SPEAKER BARRETT: If there is no objection, proceed. Proceed.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the