

because three more years worth of negotiations, if they were 14 to 15, were probably, with the kinds of increases that maybe they realized in their districts, although if you look down this list oddly enough you'll find some of these districts that have actually reduced their salaries in the last couple of years by getting rid of senior teachers and moving into fresh teachers, because...for whatever reason, I won't try to even speculate. What I found of those 539 teachers was kind of interesting, though, in terms of the school districts they represent. One hundred and thirty-one of the school districts that those teachers are teaching in have mill levies that are below 40 cents. I think if most of you, who are in situations, go back home and start talking about mill levies around that 40-cent figure, I know I have districts all over...school districts all over my district that would be doing backflips if they could get down below \$2, if they could get down below \$1.50. We're talking 40 cents, 131 of these districts are below 40 cents. Three hundred and twelve of these districts we're talking about are below \$1 that they're dedicating toward education. Why do they have such levels? Well, you look at assessed valuation per student, the state average for students is \$167,000 per student of assessed valuation. What do you have when you look down that list and you've got a, what, I believe the front page, at least, I have the complete grouping here. You start coming down that list and I see 2.7 million per student, I see 1.3 million, I see 1.1, 1.2, 3.9 million per student assessed valuation underneath each one of these students. We talk about fairness, we're in a situation where we have education being supported by our property taxes, by the value of our property taxes, when in fact as we've got them broken down in these very minute little districts, the disparity between what some of you have in Beatrice or in Omaha or in...even in many of your smaller communities is absolutely horrendous, and it's not just the urban situation they go into. I got a letter from the superintendent out at Crawford, Nebraska. I looked him up. He's got about \$68,000 of assessed valuation per student. Right next door, in the very next district, we're looking at 1.2 million assessed valuation per student. He's got problems. We need to be looking at that, and I don't want to draw that into this issue, but that all goes into the mix that I think is worthy of considering. One of the things when I offered the amendment to begin with was I said what we didn't want to do was reinforce those people who have, for whatever reasons, held that cost down and in the future are not going to be competitive. I'm not as concerned about the