

Conway and Lynch have gone through, so I'm going to talk more about the history of the bill and procedures on the bill. Sometimes we bemoan the fact that we have very little institutional memory in here, and we're usually thinking about we don't remember back several years ago why we passed legislation. I'd remind the body and remind Senator Smith, maybe specifically, that there seems to be an incredible lack of memory on how this bill got into the shape that it is in today, that it is supposedly a dastardly sort of process we went through to turn this bill into a pro-urban bill. We did not...we did not do that. When the bill was introduced, and it came to the Education Committee, it was a well-balanced piece of legislation. It was modeled after the Iowa legislation. It had three distinct phases in the bill. Phase III was a quality teaching type of proposition to which we put a few dollars in, and when we decided there were too many dollars in the bill, that went out in committee. When the floor first had an opportunity to consider the bill, it was a well-balanced piece of legislation, it included Phase I and Phase II. Phase I of the bill included a minimum salary of \$18,000. And dollars...the first dollars in this bill were to flow into those very districts that Senator Smith's amendment is purporting to help. It was to go, first of all, to get everybody in the state up to \$18,000. There were some senators with an urban bias who did not like that particular part of the bill, I may have been one of them that deep down I didn't really care that much for that part of the bill. But I felt if this was the proposal that came to us, and the goal was to make it balanced, and the goal was to help those teachers out there in those Class I school districts and in those smaller school districts that aren't paying as much, I can live with that. On Select File four distinct senators in this body, Senator Jacklyn Smith, Senator Arlene Nelson, Senator Owen Elmer, and Senator Scott Moore, each one of those filed an amendment to take Phase I out of the bill. Phase I was the portion of the bill that benefited the small districts, that benefited the teachers that were being paid poorly. We agreed to do that. We agreed to take that out. When Senator Conway offered the amendment, we said we'll go along with that. And in addition, we agreed to cut the dollars down in the bill. If you remember, it went from 100 million, 150 million dollars, down to 80 million dollars, down now to...excuse me, 40 million dollars for a one year impact, down to 25 million dollars for a one year impact, and the Conway amendment, in addition, took another \$5 million out of it. It was that proposition, brought to us by those who are now