

body again that LB 89 was sold to the taxpayers of Nebraska as a way to help low income teachers. This amendment will help those low income teachers. I think this amendment is needed, because I have several teachers in my district that are under 16,000. We need to get this on there so that it's fair for all teachers. I think if we're going to do something for just the teachers in...with the high income, it isn't designed that way. I shouldn't say it isn't designed, that's the way it is right now, but we need to have the amendments so that it's fair to all teachers. The ones that are in the low income need the higher salary also. Unless we can get this amendment on, I think there are a lot of us that support higher teacher salary, but it's hard for us to support a bill like this that doesn't help our low income teachers. We need this amendment on this bill. I urge you to adopt it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I've often heard Senator Landis make comments relative to you must know the lay of the land, you must follow the mood of the body. I sense, as I've talked to some members of the body, at least since the discussion has started with 89, that most of us know where we stand with the bill, regardless of the amendments that are going to be offered. While I appreciate the debate and the oratory that is being offered, I think there is no question that there are some folks who are anxious to vote on this bill in its present fashion. I don't expect any of the amendments to succeed tonight, and while we can spend an awful lot of time, I think the lay of the land tells us at this particular point this bill is ready to be read. While I appreciate what Senator Smith and Senator Nelson are attempting to do, to bring the bill back to put it in the shape that they feel they can vote for it, I think the majority, and I guess that's what we live with in this body, the majority of folks here feel the bill is in a stage or in a phase in which they can vote for it, and I guess we can take most of the evening to do that. But I think, regardless of what debate is offered here tonight, people have made up their minds. I guess I'm ready to vote on the bill. We can take a lot of time talking about it, but most people I have talked to have said, well, I've made up my mind and I'm ready to vote. So I guess I would say that I hope we wouldn't have to spend a lot of time. I guess I'm opening myself up to criticism for that, because we all have the opportunity to express ourselves in this body. But as I read the lay of the land, Senator Landis, that