

thought of one I missed, my eighth grade civics teacher, how could I have forgotten him because he's the one who really inspired me and got me interested in government. So what I'm saying to you is this, think about the people that we're talking about, the teachers. They are role models for our children, they spend most...most children spend, during the school year, a considerable amount of time with their teachers, sometimes more than with their parents simply because of the way our school days are set up. What this Legislature needs to send this bill...Another thing that was said yesterday that concerned me, and again here on this amendment, we don't mind giving the money to the school districts to let them do what they want to, but we don't want to give it to the teachers. Why not? They are the ones who are essential and who make up the greater part of the payroll and the expense for schools. We need to send a message from this Legislature to the school districts that we think teachers are important, and they are. So I urge you resist this amendment. We have the other \$18 million, and when we get down to the end of the budget, we can figure out what to do with that. But, please, hang in with the teachers, resist this amendment and let's get on and read LB 89 and pass it. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Chair recognizes Senator Coordsen, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR COORDSEN: (Laugh.) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. In all of the hours of debate, I think I've yet to say word one on this issue. Little bit like Senator Smith talks, she said she listens and listens and listens and then makes up her mind and reserves the right to change from time to time, and I think that's the way of a deliberative body. But I'm a little puzzled tonight I think in that in reading the papers I find that LB 89 has been promoted as a bill to increase the average salary of the teachers in the State of Nebraska. Does it do that? I don't think so. It increases the average salary, but it doesn't increase all teachers salaries, and I think that's been ably demonstrated by all of the debate. Senator Lynch, earlier this evening, alluded basically to punishing districts who didn't pay their teachers enough. They're not going to pay their teachers any more with the passage of LB 89. Someone mentioned earlier that there was a district in the State of Nebraska that only paid \$9,700 to their teacher. And there are other teachers who, through education and years of service I would imagine, are approaching, on an