

individual basis, the \$40,000 level. LB 89, with a funding mechanism, is a little bit more than \$950 a teacher. Under the current distribution formula the \$9,700 teacher will get nothing. The formula purely distributed would give the highest teacher \$1,800 or more. Who are we trying to kid? I'm supposed to be anti-education, I suppose because I haven't supported this bill, purely from the inequities in it. I've seen issues or individuals in the body, from time to time, exhibit some righteous anger and probably justifiably so. I felt a little righteous anger this afternoon when there was a cartoon distributed alluding to the low teacher salaries. And I make no defense of the teachers salaries being too high, they are not. But I would share with you that many of the districts, including every district that I represent, the teacher salaries, on the average, are higher than the citizens in those districts. Yet we have a formula here to increase teacher salaries. It's a better formula, by far, than the original Phase II that we started with. But yet the teachers I represent are not going to share equitably in it. Yes, they'll share, but not equitably. I think I've always supported, since coming to the Legislature, every increase in state aid that went out, every opportunity to provide to the boards of education that we've entrusted with the business of governing our schools, the opportunity to have more money, aside from property tax, to do just what they are supposed to do. But what do we offer them in the absence of state aid? We offer them a complicated formula for redistribution of a certain amount of money. My school boards, at least several members, have said, what are you doing to us, how are we going to redistribute this amount of money? I support...

SENATOR LAMB: Thirty seconds, Senator.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...the previous amendment, and I will support this one, and I will support any increase in state aid that we're able to come up. But I do not think that the current system that we have presented to us in this bill is fair. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Chair recognizes Senator Withem, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I stand in opposition to the Nelson amendment. Kind of a continuation of the discussion we had yesterday, although the two issues are