

support to the most important ingredient, as many of you already referred to, the most important ingredient in an individual student's ability to learn and that is the teacher who gives him both the knowledge and the enthusiasm to do so and I would hope you would reject the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support this amendment. This amendment would be \$20 million more in state aid to schools. And if we want to help education, I think this is the way to go. And, Senator Withem, maybe I didn't state my facts correctly or the statement but what I was shocked about yesterday is when you offered that \$1 million for state aid to schools. Did you take time to figure out what that would mean for each school? It wouldn't even mean a drop because when you give state aid you just about have to take at least 10 million or \$20 million at a time or else it doesn't even pay to divide it up. Like I said yesterday, I have been a supporter of increasing state aid of the same percentage that we increase our state budget. Why don't we do that? Because we can't get 25 people here that will do it. Also, I think by paying this money directly to the teachers, we're bypassing the school board. And there has been many school board members that have told me, they says, you want us to be on the school board but we don't have any authority anymore, we don't have any control because you folks here in Lincoln tell us what to do and what we can't do, what we have to do. In fact, some of them says, I don't even know why we serve. So I think we ought to consider that. I served on a school board for quite a few years. I enjoyed it but then I could see already the erosion of local control. We have a lot of capable people out there. We have a lot of dedicated people out there, not only serving on our school boards, but serving on our county boards and local NRD boards and I could name quite a few and they put in long hours, long and dedicated hours. A lot of their meetings go past midnight. And so I think...I think we need to recognize this. Last Sunday, I had an opportunity to visit with a school teacher. I know a lot of people have said, well, Hefner, you're against education. But I'm not against education. But I had an opportunity to visit with this teacher and she was asking me how we was coming along with LB 89, how we was coming along with state aid to education, and I was telling her that the last time around I supported LB 89 because I thought we ought to do something for education and it didn't look like any state aid