

the best education that they can possibly get for their children or their grandchildren. None of us are proud of maybe the policeman's salary, the teacher's salary or the business income or necessarily the farm income. What we all want is we want to do the best. I, personally, cannot see how this is going to harm the teachers or how we are going to, by setting up another program by the state controlling, so to speak, the teachers' salaries and, as I said, cutting out the ones that need it the worst, we are rewarding those that are in the system and the ones that are going to stay in the system. We are not doing anything to entice that lower paid teacher the way the bill is set up now. My reason for staying in state aid to education is it gives that school district that opportunity to make their own decisions or, if need be, maybe to improve with a new library book or whatever they want. We are simply passing this increase onto our taxpayers without even giving them any consideration whatsoever or trying to help them. If I thought that the salary...the 20 million was not going to go to mostly salaries, that would be a different story, but I cannot believe that. I'm not going to talk about quality but...or I said I wouldn't, a couple of the speakers have alluded to that. I will tell you, I, frankly, asked a paid representative of the NSEA right out here in the hall the other day, can you tell me that the passage of this bill and to keep LB 89 in place without going back to state aid to education and trying to improve the whole education system will improve the quality of our education or our teachers that we have today? The answer was, no, it will not. It may entice, and I hope it entices the better qualified teachers and the better students. We need to change our admission standards to get into teaching. But to add another \$2,000 to the top paid teachers without doing anything or giving those school boards the opportunity to compensate their lower paid teachers, how many of you know that the base has been raised from 14,000 something average up to 17,000 now? So we're really not so far off and there are the small poorer paid teachers. But I just simply feel that in the essence of all of my constituents and in the essence of education that we do have to put more money into state aid to education and we still need to give them the opportunity to reward the better teachers or the opportunity to hire and get the teachers as they see fit. And, with that, I guess that's the end of my closing unless Senator Smith wants a minute of my closing.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is the return of the bill to Select File. Those in favor of that motion vote aye,