

together in one pot, they can probably do that. I think were I...were I a labor person, I would prefer to keep them separate. If I were a management person, I would prefer to keep them separate because I would want to say to the...to the teachers if the state government does not continue to pay those dollars, I would want to say...to know what those dollars were to be set aside so I would know who to blame for it. And I guess that's basically it. Does that answer your question, Senator Moore, at least on what...how I see this bill flowing, or are there some things that weren't clear?

SENATOR MOORE: You said that the school board could negotiate it and have one check and so it is one part of mine, that is possible under the way the bill is written. Correct?

SENATOR WITHEM: They can negotiate that way if there is mutual agreement...

SENATOR MOORE: Okay.

SENATOR WITHEM: ...by both parties, not...the school board cannot do that unilaterally.

SENATOR MOORE: Now the question is about...it's a hypothetical question, if the school district froze salaries and did not grant any increases, what can be done with the LB 89 fund? You never really answered that question.

SENATOR WITHEM: I suppose, conceivably, you could have a situation where enough money flowed into the school district to give a 5 percent pay raise. They could still...if the teachers would agree...now keep in mind you also took out the provision dealing with the...with comparability so that the school board now has to be comparable with other districts in the way they treat those dollars but I suppose if the Teachers' Association would agree, in essence, to a 5 percent cut in the amount of their salary that was subsidized by local property tax dollars and other aid and used those dollars to keep their salary at the exact level it was before, I guess, in theory they could do that. I think it would violate the...you know, the intent that the Legislature is stating here and I doubt if a local school negotiating committee would do that, but I think it's possible to let that happen...that that could happen.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, then one final question. In the event,