

relief. And I think it's relatively clear, in reading this bill, that, in essence, it is not property tax relief. If that school district chooses to give a teacher this amount of money, then that money is provided to that particular teacher. It's rewarding teachers that have a certain level of education and that's what the bill provides for. And I don't think any of the sponsors have hid from that particular issue as well. It's a bill to reward teachers that they feel have earned additional money, money that should come from the state to that particular teacher. The issue is not property tax in this. If a school district views a teacher is doing a good job, they just give the money, along with the 5, 6, 10, 12 percent pay increase that they get each year, depending on the school district. So I think that that has to be made clear. And I think this will come back to us when we discuss the philosophical differences between this particular bill and LB 525 that provides straight state aid formula. I think that it's important to differentiate. I don't think it really makes a lot of difference for the legislative history. This bill is clear. It establishes money for teachers that reach a certain level of education, nothing else. Mr. President, I would like to relinquish some of my time here to Senator Conway and then the remaining time to Senator Hartnett.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Conway, please.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think through some of the dialogue there has been some confusion and maybe it's been part because we have been talking about some other technicalities of the bill that...that by raising those it looks like there's some confusion. And I think what...it's important to follow through as the formula went down why it took out Phase I as well as some of the other amendments that were in there on that General File amendment. What you have got is when we look at those printouts and you see how much money is going to come to your school district, that was predicated on information from 1987. The way the bill, basically, is going to work is that when they renegotiate their salaries straight up front without knowledge of how much money is going to be there, when they do that this year that contract is settled, that would be what's on the table. That information is then going to go and be recalculated as per these new formulas that were put in. Then that pool of money is redistributed back to those school districts as they're entitled to it. They go back to the table and they negotiate that pool. Now whether they want to