

quality improvement. We did enhance Nebraska's ranking as far as its comparison with other states. It was my desire to put back into this bill some degree of education enhancement. I think if the state is going to spend \$20 million or \$15 million of taxpayers money, it ought to be done so more than just to raise salaries. We ought to be leveraging some sort of improvement by doing so. My original idea was, the amendment that I withdrew was just to state more specific requirements that local bargaining agencies would have to follow if they are going to distribute their money. That amendment incurred a lot of wrath from the NSEA. A lot of you received information about how that particular proposal was unacceptable. What I then did was file a second amendment. The second amendment that I did went back to the original LB 89, would have reinstated into 91 a portion that was there in the original LB 89, a requirement that a percentage of this money be distributed around a concept known as performance-based teaching. The performance-based teaching would be defined at the local level. The plans would be argued and debated at the local level. That was from the original bill that was drafted two years ago by NSEA. Because now of the budgetary restraints that we are under and the likelihood that there will not be \$20 million appropriated this year, my guess is when Senator Lynch offers an amendment to cut his own A bill, there will not be a great hue and cry from the body insisting that the full \$20 million be appropriated. What I am doing now is I have another amendment, and that is the one that is being offered now, that says that the \$15 million that we are likely to appropriate this year will be distributed under the same provisions that were in LB 89, as it passed. When and if this Legislature appropriates another \$5 million to get the money back up to the \$20 million where it was before, that \$5 million, or any portion of that \$5 million that is appropriated, will be used for performance-based distribution. Then any money beyond the \$20 million that is appropriated, and that will be at least two years down the road before we get into that area would be my guess, that will be distributed, two-thirds of it will be distributed for the purposes of enhancement of salaries, one-third of it will be used for the enhancement of teacher performance. The one, I have had some discussions with some folks from the NSEA yesterday about this. I will not purport to tell you what their position is on the Withem amendment at this point. What I will tell you is I did indicate to them that if this term "performance-based" is a problem because it is somewhat nebulous, we will do a better job of defining what sort of things can be included within a locally negotiated