

is going to be this year because they're going to...even if it went to...if we had 20 million, they're going to take a 6.2 percent cut. Now they're going to take another 5 billion cut. Senator Abboud used, you know, everyone can use statistics in their own way. Senator Abboud talked about the good things that we're doing in the State of Nebraska but he forgot to mention one thing and it's a problem that I have with merit pay and I have nothing wrong...I have nothing against merit pay or performance-based instruction but the thing is, folks, we're behind. Do our children, do my grandchildren, don't they deserve...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR ROBINSON: ...as much well...as much as the students in Iowa are receiving? You say, well, money doesn't make any difference. Sure, you can stand up here, Howard can stand up here and I will tell you he could rationalize that thing away to nothing. Couldn't you, Howard? Yeah, he won't shake his head but he's smiling. It's real easy to do that. But you're going to get better teachers with better pay. We went from 42nd to 39th, then with the passage...went 42nd to 38th. With the passage of 1059, the average went to 39th. But as far as income in the country, our state is the 32nd. So what's that tell us? Howard told me to stay cool. I'm probably as cool as I'll ever get, Howard. (Laughter.) We're 32nd. What's that mean?

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR ROBINSON: We don't treat teachers very well, do we? There are seven other states that are doing better because we don't want to reward our teachers. Time's up?

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Yes. Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Wesely, you're next on the advancement of LB 91.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I haven't spoken a word on the bill and I will try to be as brief as possible. It's a very important piece of legislation. It seems to me that we're back here again because LB 89 again was a new idea, a new concept and that Senator Withem talked about appropriate that we come and sit and look at the issue once again. But the question I have is because of the status of the fact that it was a two-year appropriation, I want to ask Senator Moore if he could respond to some questions. Was...was the