

our state...a lot of things that are in that state aid category are aid to individuals, not necessarily aid to local subdivisions, number one. Number two, we wanted to say the teacher pay bill had to be added on as state aid above that and I reject that assertion. First of all, the teachers' pay bill is going down this year. Right, Senator Lynch, it's not going up, it's going down by \$5 million, at latest counts, and we have other amendments up that I will not support but could have the possibility of lowering that. But the most important thing Senator Wesely very conveniently forgot to mention and that is, of course, state aid is going up this year. Some people in here may have memories that will last all the way back to last April when we raised sales tax and income tax to fund state aid. Now Senator Wesely can get a general increase in taxes to fund university...university salaries, get it dedicated to that, get a statewide coalition together to support that, travel around the state, get a bill passed over the Governor's veto, then he's probably entitled to increase money going into university salaries each year. But it's not fair any more to compare the old so much to state aid, so much to state government operations because we made a very deliberate decision to increase state aid and we didn't do that at the detriment of other portions of government. We did that by raising taxes. And we're going to have as long as I'm here...every time one of these discussions comes up I'm going to remind people we did that and that if we do anything other than to continue to return that raised sales tax and that raised income tax rates, the revenues that come from that, back to local subdivisions to flow through to reduce reliance on property taxes, we're breaking faith with the people. So it's an unfair comparison and it's one that should not be made and it certainly should not be made to convince people to vote for a \$3 million appropriation when we don't have \$3 million to fund it. I don't know where the \$3 million will come from. I have a sneaking suspicion that there may be a bill out there that has several million dollars in it that some people may wish to attack or may wish to do the old pit one section of education, elementary secondary against the other higher ed, but I'm not going to support that sort of thing. I support the work of the Appropriations Committee and will...and in this particular regard I support the work of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Wehrbein, not up and down the line, and I will not be voting for the Ashford amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senators Ashford, Nelson and