

to look at sums of monies that are beginning to have impact as we go through the last...the next nine days on what we are going to be able to afford to do, what we can afford to do and we're going to have to start making those decisions. I think we've all been making those decisions but I think this is the first amendment that's come up that really puts us up against the wall of saying, yes, we want to do this and we're willing to sacrifice over here. Or we would like to do it but we can't because we have other things that we also need to do. We also need to weigh this back into negotiated salaries, what the negotiations were, what peer groups are, what they should be, what they could be, what does (inaudible) say, what does the university say. The issue is much, much broader than do we just want to do something to help the University of Nebraska. All of us would like to help the University of Nebraska. I would like to do more for the university. I would like to do more for my good friends at Kearney. I would like to do more for UNO. I would like to do more across the board in education because it's important, because it's very, very important to our future. But there comes a time when we have to say what can we do? What is available to be done? And have we done the most amount possible given the resources we have? And I think the answer to that is at this point I think we've done a pretty job at that. And I would, at this point, oppose the Ashford amendment but I certainly understand Senator Ashford's intent. I certainly understand his well meaning and no one is questioning his...his integrity, his understanding of the issues, nor his intense desire to make education in Nebraska the best it can be. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I would like to respond, I guess, to Senator Lynch because I think it's important that I get this on the record. Senator Lynch and I had a discussion about his amendment which effectively would have mandated that the Board of Regents pay the agreed upon collective bargaining agreement amounts to the UNO faculty and the Kearney faculty. And I supported that concept in the Appropriations Committee and I appreciate and support what Senator Lynch is trying to do. And I, under no circumstances, was intending to have a set-up deal or try to set him up. I think what I...when we discussed that amendment earlier, I think the idea was that that amendment