

people in the State of Nebraska...other states are freezing salaries. They are freezing with no increases and they are making cuts and be it from retirement or whatever it is and I think it's time that we consider the people of the state and quit considering are we going to give away if they thought we had 20 million, they would ask for 25 million, and if they thought we had five, they would want 10. And I think it's time that we become realistic on this floor and that we, ourselves, think of our taxpayers back home and the average person up and down the street. And so I hope that you take it in consideration on this and on a few more other bills coming down the line.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Wesely, followed by Senators Wehrbein, Lynch, Robak and Robinson. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. I thought if I could just take a minute or two to defend myself, I guess, with Senator Withem. But let me...let me add that the figures that I have come from the fiscal office about the state aid to increases versus state operations and I don't think they're in dispute. The question is, how did we arrive at those. And I have to say that I think Senator Withem is correct that the state aid increase can largely be attributed to the LB 1059 increase and certainly that was substantial. But, nevertheless, as you look at those aggregate numbers and you see that if you add in the teacher salary thing, and that's what I'm being told you need to to get an accurate count of increases, I'm not quite sure how that works out but that's what I'm being told. You're really talking about a 9 percent increase in state aid from this budget year to last...or, excuse me, from this budget year to the next budget year and that's a significant increase, while the operation, state operation increase is 1.2 percent with some potential factor in there depending on the Commonwealth money, how that's counted. All I'm suggesting is that, yes, it's true, 1059 had a dramatic impact and, yes, it did increase the state aid dramatically, and, yes, the people did support it. That's all absolutely the case. And I certainly support the teacher salary increase and have no plans whatsoever to do anything to change that other than to see it passed in the form that it is right now. I'm simply suggesting that state operations do not come out all that well under this budget, that the cuts that we talked about on Whitehall with all the other cuts we'll hear about later as the session ends and we realize what sort of