

Hefner, as I mentioned, and I forgot to mention to you, when I spoke before I ran out of time, I did some research and I did some work and I, at random, in some of the schools, some of them very much at random, and you can see the mix, what the average salaries were. Next year they're about five or six percent more and these are by contacting the schools or by the '90-91 State Education Department and, as you can see, there's a tremendous difference in the amount of the fringe benefits. So I gave it to you just to how you some schools give practically nothing. That's the small schools that only keep their teachers two years or three years because of the tenure. Some of these are just small grade schools in Hall County and it's interesting to see what the variety in the salary is and the variety of the fringe benefits, even to the term life insurance. Some can purchase, some can use annuities if they don't use the health stipend, as call it. Usually, in fact all cases which is the same as hospitals or other businesses, these are pretax dollars so that, again, is another benefit all the way from 1,500 to 2,000 dollars. So I just brought these out to you what the difference in salaries and for you to sit here and review if you may. The little town of Ravenna, I was very much surprised at their benefits. It does vary, but I do support Senator Hefner in trying to bring to us...we should be thinking of the kids and that's why we're up here. Senator Robinson mentioned, okay, are we have accountability of our state employees or our highway patrol? That's not what we're talking about. We're talking about trying to improve our schools, trying to have our schools competitive with the schools on the national level and improve our education system. We don't care. We're not out there to blindly throw dollars away. Or if there's another state agency, that they may or may not, that's not what we're talking about tonight. We're talking about the education for our children and we, as the Legislature, have got to be responsible for those dollars that we're allocating. If not, our education system will not improve and we will be getting less and less for our dollar, and that's what we should be concerned about tonight. And if we're not concerned about that, our education system will not improve or will probably not be as good tomorrow as it is today...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: ..and that's what we are responsible for, and if we don't take that responsibility, as the Legislature, we've been very remiss and we've not done our duty as we should to our