

**PRESIDENT MOUL:** Debate has ceased and I will recognize Senator Hefner for closing.

**SENATOR HEFNER:** Madam President and members, it has been a good debate, been a good discussion and I think it has been a long time coming. Senator Bernard-Stevens, I thought you gave a good talk for my amendment. I thought you would rush up here, and instead of taking a third of the fifteen million, you would take two-thirds and put it into performance base. That way we could award the better teachers, and I don't have anything against the teachers. I think we have got a lot of good teachers in Nebraska. In fact, I know I wouldn't have the patience to be in the teaching profession but that is the way it goes. But what we are talking about here is really a stipend to what the local school boards are paying, and I would just like to see part of that, part of that go for performance-based salary. Senator Lynch, I accept that apology. In fact, I meant to tell you in the opening that I did get a letter of apology from NSEA and they will print the correct information in the next issue. But, right now the damage has been done. We talked about we are 39th or 40th or 41st on the salary scale for teachers. That may be true but we should adjust that for the cost of living in some of the other states. It costs a lot more to live in Alaska, it costs a lot more to live in California, it costs a lot more to live in New York and so I don't think our salary range is too bad. But, I just feel that this 15 million should, a part of it should be divided in a performance-based salary. I'm not saying that the \$5 million or the 33 percent of that is the correct way to go. I don't figure this amendment will pass, but I thought that it needed to be discussed and we need to go from there. I feel that we need to crawl before we can run and this would be a good way to do it. I would encourage you to support the amendment.

**SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING**

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Hefner. You've heard the closing. We will now vote on the amendment by Senator Hefner. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

**CLERK:** 7 ayes, 21 nays, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** The amendment fails. Next item, Mr. Clerk.