

SENATOR ROBINSON: Well how about old B.S.? Is he around?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: He's around.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, okay. The...I've been thinking a lot about the contents of this bill. Now you go out in the small schools of Nebraska, the Class D 1 and D 2 schools as they rank them according to activities. And in most of those schools those teachers probably teach maybe 12, anywhere from 6 students to 12 students. In fact, I have one in my district that is a C 1 or 2, I think it's a C 1. One class he teaches he only has three students in class. My question, Senator Stevens, do you think a teacher that teaches an average of 10 students compared to a teacher that teaches 25 or 30 students should receive the same amount of money as salary, providing they've been in education the same way, and I'd like to know if you could answer that question.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah, I can, Senator. It really depends upon the subject matter. For example, there are some advanced classes in mathematics, physics or foreign languages that the classes are very small, but they're also very, very difficult and they're very challenging because of all the different things you have to do. In that area, small size is not only more beneficial, but it's very, very difficult.

SENATOR ROBINSON: And much more expensive, right?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: If you're doing straight per pupil cost, yes, it would be if you did it that way. Right.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Well from your remarks then, I think you've touched on another issue that we don't want to address is that for certain academic areas teachers should receive more money. Now from what you're saying that the higher level of course is usually in science and math, those students should receive more money. Is that...?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator, that's your interpretation of what I've said. That's not what I'm saying, but I understand where you'd want to make that...

SENATOR ROBINSON: Well, you justified it with your answer though.