

SENATOR WITHEM: The school board and the teachers sit down and they negotiate a package. I think, frankly, what they usually do is they piggyback it on the existing formula. One of my problems with the way it worked out is they haven't really been aggressively making a determination of what's the best way to use the money at the local level. That's an editorial aside.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you, Senator Withem. I just want it, at this point, clarified on the floor of the Legislature.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Time.

SENATOR HEFNER: Did you give me the minute, or...

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, I did, Senator.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: You're welcome. Before we go to our next speaker, I would like to announce that Senator Coordsen has some guests in the south balcony, just preparing to leave, I believe, 60 fourth graders from Crete Elementary School in Crete, Nebraska and their teachers. Welcome to the Legislature. The next speaker is Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit. Senator Nelson, you're the next speaker.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, I've not participated in the discussion so far in where these funds should or should not come from. I did have my light on and I certainly...I just wanted the body to remember, about two years ago I introduced LB 1142 which would have increased beer only two cents; wine, 15 cents a gallon, and that would have created about \$1.5 million for alcohol and drug treatment for kids, kids that have problems, severe treatment. I could not even get that money to help our kids or our students and that needed alcohol and drug treatment. So, obviously, I was against that. I think everyone of we senators knew when this stipend bill was passed a couple years ago that we would be in this predicament. If we're not, we really...we didn't do our homework or we didn't try to wonder where this money was going to come from. I...I, yet I just cannot or could not support taking it out of the Highway Trust Fund, going back in a charade of where the money came from or where it's going to go. In a few days, we'll have another bill that we're going to have as much problem confronting and that is forgiving the tax, the state income tax on federal pensions. So