

April 1, 1992

LB 89, 1022

there was some concern about that. What my amendment simply does is strike in the current 1022, on page 22, line 6, it strikes 25A, the original Section 29 and thereby replaces it with the original language as I just mentioned. I only mention this again because it's important for us to remember that the teachers have been most cooperative in trying to resolve our budget problems. And in fact I think have been treated very shabbily by...by having their funds cut for the HELP program. You may remember that they agreed to go from the 20 million to the 15 million, voluntarily, never ever suspecting that they would lose another \$8 million. And that's really tragic. If there was ever a time the funds were needed, it's now. And I think that we should somehow do what we can to try to reestablish those funds. You and I both know that finding the funds from General Fund dollars, trying...the money from General Fund dollars will be very difficult. But I know there are two or three other senators here on the floor who would like to address the issue, and when they're finished we'll decide whether or not we want to really continue with further discussion on this amendment. But I would ask your...for your support.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Crosby, followed by Senators Moore and Horgan. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I'm always pleased to speak on behalf of teachers. And I thank Senator Lynch for bringing this up once more before the end of the session, because I do agree that it has been unfortunate that first they have 20 million, then they have 15, then they have 7. It gets a little confusing. And, as I've said before, LB 89 and its successor bills, I thought, were good bills to further enhance salaries of teachers who weren't getting salaries from school districts that were commensurate with their abilities and their credentials. I mentioned this morning, I'll mention it again, last Friday I was in Hastings all day, at Hastings College, with a group of 200 high school students from across the Third District. We were in four different, four or five different disciplines. I was on the education...with the education group. I was really impressed with these young people and also with the teachers that were there. The young people are up on issues, they understand what...and know what they want from education. They know what they want from their teachers. They were not afraid to stand up and say perhaps one teacher didn't do exactly...wasn't as good a teacher as some other one