

without naming names, I don't mean that. But they talked about some of the inadequacies of education, but also mostly about the strengths of their educational system. In that discussion that day was...one interesting thing came out. During the past year, when we talked about LB 91, one of the dailies in one of the smaller cities came out with an editorial, a scathing editorial against our educational, public educational system in Nebraska, and it was bad, it was not doing the job it should do, and teachers weren't doing their job, students weren't learning. On the front page of that same newspaper was a story headlined with the number of merit scholars from that school system in that town that had earned the merit scholarships that year to go on to higher education. Surely that says something about how good our educational system is. Nebraska's education...secondary and elementary school systems, I think, are really good ones. We have a good system, we have dedicated teachers, and I think anything we can do to keep that educational system strong is very important. And the teachers are the guide...the guides of that system. Without the teachers the students wouldn't have anyone to go to school to. So I just think it's just a very simple equation, teachers and students, that's the system, and that's the system we should be trying to strengthen. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Madam President, members, as we move along a little slowly this afternoon, I know Senator Lynch said he may or may not withdraw this. But just as a point, to point out what the amendment does, Senator Lynch reinstates the language that the Governor had in there, in the original bill to fund the teacher million pro...the teacher...the HELP program to \$15 million. As Senator Lynch mentioned, I just want to reiterate his amendment does not take the money out of 1059, it just simply reinserts the money at \$8 million. And so the net effect of that would be that you're going to spend \$8 million with this amendment, and that would come...has to come from somewhere. I mean that's the argument we have here. And I guess for that reason I rise to oppose the amendment at this point in time. You know back when we passed LB 89 and Senator Lynch is absolutely correct that I would...and I agreed that the teachers were cooperative last year in trying to make something fit within the budget. But the fact remains that, you know, when we started this plan it was done with existing revenues, without raising taxes. There were specific efforts on this floor to raise taxes to pay for that bill. They were defeated.