

point because there isn't the General Fund monies to do so. I don't have the heart to vote against it, I'll simply not vote. But I certainly appreciate Senator Lynch bringing it forward for the discussion. Thank you, Senator.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I have not talked on the issue of school, excuse me, teacher salaries, but just a couple of points I want to bring out. I think it behooves us all to take a good look at ourselves when we talk about the funding of teacher salaries, especially all the grandmas and grandpas in here. What's more important, a child's mind or a highway? I'll tell you, a lot of people would tell you a highway. But it behooves us to take a good look at what we pay our teachers in the State of Nebraska. We are not getting the best teachers in the State of Nebraska. Where are the young ladies in the State of Nebraska going now? They're not going into teaching, they're going into law, they're going into business, they're going into medicine. Why? There's only one reason why, because they're not paid enough money to do so. The average salary down at UNL is \$48,000 a year. The average in the State of Nebraska for a classroom teacher is \$27,000 to \$28,000 a year. Are you telling me that they're worth \$20,000 more? Come on now, we know that's not so. We rank 40th in the country right now, we'll probably go down to 41 next year. It behooves all of us to take a good look at what we're paying the teachers of Nebraska because we're going downhill whether we like it or not. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Is there anyone else wishing to address the Lynch amendment? Seeing no one, Senator Lynch, did you wish to close?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, thank you. First of all, thanks to everybody on the floor who addressed the issue. And when we use the word trust, please remember that trust applies in a lot of issues. In this particular case it applies to teachers, because we had a trust with the teachers that they would have that funding. And it was violated in a lot of different ways for a lot of different reasons, and I won't go over that. I would respectfully disagree with our good friend and Chairman of the