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you can sing dooms day all day long, like Senator Wesely. I missed you, Senator Wesely, you left. I said you brought a smile to my face when you said hold the line. I guess I should repeat that again because I would like to see that statement many more times in all phases of state government. So...but I will say it was a breath of fresh air for me to hear you say that. Now, the Nebraska Retirement System cannot afford to go up, so the answer is simple, they shouldn't go up if they can't afford it. Besides, under the leadership of Senator Nelson, we're going to have an interim study on all the retirement programs, which I think is a good move. So, I would go on record in voting against the committee amendments because I think the Omaha teachers retirement program has proven that it's fiscally sound and they're fiscally ready for this move. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I also rise in opposition to the committee amendments. I think most of the points have been well made by other senators, but I just simply want to reiterate that although there is...there may be a trend for when one retirement benefit happens that the other organization looks to get the same kind of benefits for them, the fact remains that even though they may be interested in that, that they can only do it when they are actuarially sound. In fact, if we look at the history of when Omaha gets their retirement benefits, as opposed to when the state organization does, we do not see a close, at least in a timely way, interrelatedness between those benefits, that they have typically been four or five years apart. And even when they have been close, it has been because the...that one has the money in order to provide those kind of benefits. I think because they are separate systems, because the primary factor in determining whether or not they can look at these kinds of increases for the retirement, is that this money belongs to them and it is their system that we're talking about, and it should not be connected with the state system at this particular point in time. And I would urge you that the most logical thing to do would be to reject the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Senator Rasmussen's comments were right on target. You know, we need to