

amendment undermines that, takes us back where we were in the Dark Ages, as far as I am concerned, and I get really...I guess I want to say, even though Senator Conway is a dear friend of mine, if we are not willing to support increasing money for faculty, then don't get involved with the distribution at that point, to me, that is a low blow. To me, that is an unfair blow, and at this particularly point, I also want to say how vehemently opposed I am to the amendment, and it will take away all of the progress we've done on the performance based and get it to a point that I may not even be able to support any of the concepts of LB 91. We cannot go back to those Dark Ages. We cannot go back to where it was before.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: We must continue to proceed in the direction that we have decided to in LB 91 on the performance-based criteria.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Mr. Speaker, members, the teacher pay bill is something that I haven't addressed on this floor since I have been here. I have not supported it. I have not openly opposed it. I had not supported it before I came to the Legislature in meeting with groups. And I go clear back to the basic concept as to how you should be looking at teacher pay, how it should be administrated, how it should be decided, and I have never supported the concept that there should be a special appropriation for it. I do know, and I meet regularly with my teachers on the issue, and they do know how I feel about it, but one of their strong arguments was, and especially in western Nebraska, is entry level. And when you look at excellence in education and in teachers, it is entry level and attracting those people who are good, and who do need a good entry salary, and we don't have that, and I agree we don't have that. We compete very strongly. Just 30 miles away is Wyoming that offers a beginning teacher pay much greater than ours. And, Senator Conway, I probably will not be supporting your amendment. I am not sure what you amendment does. I don't know what you strike. I can't find it anyplace, and if you would be willing to explain some of that, that might help. But I felt it was time, probably, that I did need to say just a few things about it, as I will not support a teacher pay bill when it comes