

that members of this body do need to know more about the retirement system because there is such a tremendous amount of money involved, of commitment involved and I share your concerns, both yours and Senator Wesely's concerns about especially when you get statistics as we did during the Micron discussion from Senator Brashear on the stagnant growth in Nebraska and a population that is aging in Nebraska it concerns me that we may be having the generation one or two behind us have incurred some pretty big bills and if we don't have that growth in population and that growth especially in the younger population, I don't know how they're going to afford some of the programs that we've initiated and that I understand, Senator Wickersham, that they are actuarially sound. But I guess one of my other concerns is I'm in the Millard area. Omaha is right next to the Millard area and has incorporated some of the Millard area and my concerns are because Omaha Public Schools are not in the same retirement system as Millard and all the other school systems in Nebraska, they are the only system that is not in that, as I understand it, that is not in this retirement system that the state oversees and now they're coming in and asking for different benefits than the one that the state retirement systems has and definitely better benefits they're getting in Omaha with the passage of this bill, considerably better than the other retirement systems and those other retirement systems have to come to the Legislature in order to get their benefits up to the same level as Omaha will be after this bill is passed which I'm sure won't take a very long time but we don't have the money right now to pay for the same benefits for the entire rest of the state as the Omaha system has at this time to pay for their employees. So there is an inequity there and it's caused by the fact that all these other schools have to be within this retirement system together and Omaha is in its own separate retirement system. So that inequity concerns me just from the standpoint of I know what's going to happen as soon as this bill goes through is all the Millard teachers are going to be coming and wanting these same benefits and rightly so. Their work is the same. Their job is the same and they I'm sure will want the same benefits. They do the same work in the same area and they'll want the same retirement benefits and at that time we are going to be hard-pressed to...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...give them the same benefits. So I understand