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March 18, 1999 LB 674

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. For discussion on LB 674, Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as I said before, I'm rising on this bill not to...not to argue even necessarily with Rule of 85, which was something that I supported, but just to remind ourselves that sometimes the things that we do have consequences that affect our budget that are somewhat separate from the issue that's right in front of us. And if we are or if we can look at numbers and correlate those numbers in terms of early retirement to some of the numbers that we're having in terms of a teacher shortage, and then we are being requested to come up with General Funds to deal with issue of teacher shortage, there is a linkage there and I'm...so I'm just bringing it up because this seems like the most appropriate vehicle to just have some discussion about what's that doing. And, frankly, I think it's a good discussion in terms of weighing off that...the burnout issue versus the issue of having truly experienced individuals involved in the classrooms where they can make the best impact on the students. And I do believe that there are aspects of this bill that are very necessary and I am not even arguing against the Rule of 85, but I'm just asking us to look at things and see the relationships between some of the things that we do, and when we have to start dealing with what the state-funded aspects of dealing with the teacher shortage issue is, then I think we will need to revisit some aspects of this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Further discussion on LB 674, Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. The discussion is going along quite well this morning. I have a few things that I'd like to add to the discussion about the Rule of 85 and what is happening to our teachers. With the Rule of 85, we are seeing more teachers retiring. How many more, we really don't know. I believe that you're going to...some schools witnessed this last year, the first year that you could retire, and others are seeing more this next coming year, that they are turning in their resignations. Some happened last year, some are happening this year, so you see what...it's not the same for both years, but