

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 15, 2000 LB 1399

heard me talk about that. I have said that in the state that I think we can...I hear from many teachers saying just let us teach. We have continued to add more and more on to teachers in the classroom and that they would actually like to have the ability to spend time developing their daily lesson plans and really teaching in the classroom. With the extended contract, they can move a number of things that they are now doing off that teaching time to that extended contract, whether it's "norming" for the test, whether it's developing curriculum. Even the in-service training, why not move that off the regular calendar year, bundle it up, let a teacher decide to take, if it's four days or five days, and do something exciting. I've used the example of if you were an English teacher, why not let them go to Red Cloud and participate in the Willa Cather Institute that they have in the summer. I've also said I've never heard of any teacher who has just said to me, please, please, please don't take that in-service day away because it has helped me so much in the classroom. I think it would allow us, in a number of instances, to do some things that would help...that the teachers would find more interesting and would certainly go more to helping them become better teachers. We heard from the public the issue of benefits, and so on the task force we look at the issue. We have that the impact of benefits as part of the total compensation. The task force is going to hold a public hearing in each of the three Congressional districts before December 31. I would envision those to be much like a town hall meeting and I think that that will give the general public the time to come in and react to what we have done. The Master Teacher Program Act is named and I know Senator Thompson introduced two bills to the committee that have been added in the amendment; one is the Master Teacher Program and the other has to do with the loan forgiveness. And those two issues, I think, are very important as we look at not only comp...giving proper compensation for our teachers but also seeing that we give them opportunities that are available in other states that may be attracting teachers away. The compensation for the teacher, master teacher with the National Board Certification, Secretary Riley also spoke that if we've seen one thing that has made a real difference in the classroom, and we had this testimony in committee from teachers themselves, certainly is...