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it comes to these children who are always left behind, who are expected to be left behind, then I cannot go along with something that is going to aggravate that set of circumstances. I've had people tell me that if a child goes to school when he or she is four years old, by the time they get to high school they're going to drop out because they went to school a few months too early. I think that is BS. They tell me that some people were relatively small at four, and when they got to high school, they were smaller than the other kids. Well, I don't believe that had they gone to school one year later, they're going to be bigger and as big as the other kids just because they're now in high school. There's still going to be that size differential. If it continues to exist to the point where they're in high school, that size differential would be there had they gone to school one year later because they'd still be in high school with the same kids. So when they have to reach way out like that, then it lets me know they don't have anything. Why is nobody talking about the lack of ability of teachers to do the job that they're hired and paid very well to do? They are paid exceptionally well, and you notice now that other states are experiencing budget shortfalls, you don't hear all these teachers in Omaha talking about, well, I'll go teach someplace else.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There's no place else for them to go and now they're clutching these jobs like it's the end of the world if they let go. They're interested in a paycheck, like everybody else. They're interested in making it to retirement, like everybody else. They're interested in their fringe benefits, like everybody else, but they have put themselves in a position where they are to be somewhat "pedestalized," meaning they're looked up to because being a teacher is supposed to mean something special. You have young, malleable minds placed in your hands and under your control and you are to do the job of helping stimulate those young minds and bring them to the point where they will learn more while in school, not develop the attitude of aversion so that the further they go through school the less they know, the more their imagination is squeezed out of them, the self-confidence is sliced away a bit at a time, but