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FLOOR DEBATE

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the Omaha system and they get the Consumer Price Index to a maximum of 1.5 percent annual increase. The state, on the other hand, gets the Consumer Price Index to a maximum of 2.5 percent annual increase. So there is an additional increase that the state teachers get. So I don't think it's fair or accurate to say that there is a lack of parity between the benefits coming out of the system. Well, I will tell you this. I think the discussion has been good. I wish Senator Stuhr had seen this a different way. I do think it's a matter of equity. Senator Wehrbein, I always have respected his position in the Legislature and usually he kind of reminds me of Senator Matzke, and if many of you remember him, when Jerry Matzke would get up and talk and the place would get quiet and it was like your grandfather talking to you. That's not to say that Senator Wehrbein is old, by any means, but when...I tend to listen to him when it comes...in regards to matters of finance, like this. I think that it probably is a little bit too much to ask that we adopt this amendment on Select File, so I am going to withdraw the amendment. But I think the discussion was valuable and I do think it's a matter of fairness. I do think it's a matter of parity. Because when it all shakes out, there's got to be a few absolutes in life and I think retirement benefits are one of them. And we shouldn't treat somebody differently just because they're in one part of the state or another. And I think if you look at my history in the Legislature and think back to the words I said earlier today, that if this was flipped around I would be the one introducing the amendment to make the state employees whole, and I think if any of you examine my record you'd know that. With that, Mr. President, I will withdraw the amendment. I thank everyone for the discussion.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The Bourne amendment has been withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, anything further on the bill?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Flood, for a motion. Senator Stuhr, for a motion. Would you like to make a motion to advance your bill to E & R for engrossing?

SENATOR STUHR: I move that the bill be advanced to E & R for