

April 3, 1984

LB 457

I, of course, oppose the amendment. And I am a little surprised at Senator Wesely and Senator Landis being so concerned about the cost of this when they were both such strong supporters of a bill we had up here a few weeks ago that Senator Morehead and I both voted against, the stipend plan, that called for millions of dollars to start the program, and many, many millions down the line. And I understand from what Senator Landis said on the floor, he still supports the \$2 million that is left in 994. So if they really wanted to do something for teachers, here is an opportunity to do something for teachers, cost a lot less than LB 994. So I am a little surprised that they are so concerned all of a sudden that we are going to do too much for teachers. I would just like to emphasize a couple of points that Senator Morehead made as to where we stand in our state as far as early retirement is concerned compared to other states. I know the point can be made, well, we are the only state that has the Unicameral. I am not particularly proud of that, but I think that we do have to look at what some of the other states are doing and we certainly are low, not only in teachers salaries, but also as far as our retirement plans are concerned, and also as far as retirement. The proposal that Senator Morehead and I are offering is not going to bring a rush of early retirements. We voted...I think this Legislature just in a couple of years ago voted almost unanimously I believe for an early retirement system for the Omaha Public School system and it has not followed that we had a mass number of early retirements. There are a number of reasons why you won't have all of those early retirements. If you retire early, it really cuts into your Social Security benefits. If you start retirement before age 65, your Social Security benefits are going to suffer. Also in this case, if you teach longer, your retirement benefits are going to be better. And also the retirement benefits, Social Security and retirements together, will not equal the teacher salary so the teachers that are concerned, that like their job, they like what they are doing, they are still very effective teachers at age 60 or above are not going to be retiring. So we are not going to have that great cost I think that is being suggested that we might have. Let's not overlook the dollar savings to the school district if you do have some

11711