

April 13, 1981

LB 248, 463

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would like to just make a few comments. I am a little bit reluctant because you might say it is sort of a special interest bill but I will assure you it is not going to affect my pension very much but I do think that we need to make some adjustments in teacher retirement benefits. I think first if we look at comparison with other states, I believe of the entire midwest, we rank at the bottom, and when on top of that you add the fact we probably rank about 35th in salaries, and Nebraska is not a poor state. I believe generally we rank somewhere in the middle or above average on personal income so we are not a poor state. I think we can afford to pay the teachers and I think they are entitled to a better retirement figure than they have. As a superintendent of a small school, I know I have seen many young men that have been in the teaching profession for a few years and the good ones don't stay very long. They drop out because there isn't any future and I think currently with the lid that we have had the last couple of years I think we need to do something to encourage people to get into the education business, to become teachers. They have become very discouraged the last couple of years with the future for Nebraska and I don't think we can afford to do that. I think we owe our children better than that and I would encourage you to support this bill. I think we still will not rank very high as far as teacher benefits are concerned. I think this is a very modest improvement and I would urge you to support it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the advancement of LB 248 as explained. Senator Wiitala, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WIITALA: Mr. Speaker, I would just move to advance LB 248.

SPEAKER MARVEL: All in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The bill is advanced. Next bill, 463.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 463 (Read title). The bill was read on January 20, referred to Retirement. It was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.