

PRESIDENT: I could say thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm always with the Governor, but this time I may not be. In 1973 or '75, when I worked for the City of Omaha, we had the same situation. We had...and I believe the teachers were in the same situation at one time. They were people that retired years and years ago and were receiving \$40, \$50 and even...the top was about \$60 after putting in maybe 30 or 40 years with the City of Omaha. At that time it did cost a lot of money, but we did upgrade those retirement for those people. There is not that many involved because at that time those people were in their 60s and 70s. It isn't an expense that you're going to have every year for the years to come because as you bring them up those people, of course, pass away and are no longer with us. But it is bringing them up to par now. I think it is almost embarrassing that anyone that worked for the University, or the state, or the city, regardless of where they worked, and are now in their 70s and 80s, are still receiving only a \$40 or \$50 pension for the month. I know not any one of us on this floor could live with that type of retirement. So I am very much in favor of this bill. I know it does cost a lot of money. But we've got to think of the elderly people that are now retired and trying to maintain their home. We're going to pay for it in the long run. If we don't bring them up to par they are going to have to get food stamps, supplements, whatever, Medicaid. Giving them a little bit of extra and letting them live in a little bit of dignity means a lot. I urge you to adopt or advance LB 290.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Senator Harris, I have a question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Harris, would you take your microphone. Senator Nelson has the floor. May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR HARRIS: Yes.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: First, I see this as some special legislation for a special group. But I have a few questions