

you. But let me put it to you as clearly as I can. I hope that Senator Lamb and others are listening. This is not going to cause one school board to pay one dollar more, anywhere in this state, than they are paying right now. Here is how it works--right now the school boards are paying that money, but they are showing a portion of it on the school...on the payment to the teacher as a deduction from their salary. That has caused the IRS to say this is income. That teacher then has to claim that portion as income and pay income tax on it. All this bill does is say that that portion is not going to be shown as a deduction, but instead is going to be shown as being paid by the school board, therefore, will not show as income, and the teacher will not have to pay income tax on it, but instead will pay income tax when they start collecting the retirement benefits. Now as to whether we are treating schools differently than the other...the counties and the cities and the MUD that is in the bill, the schools are the same as the state employees. They are required to have a retirement system. An individual cannot opt out of that retirement system. If you work in the school system of this state you are in the retirement system. If you work for the State of Nebraska you are in the state retirement system. The state does exactly the same thing that we are saying to the schools you shall do. So we are treating them equally. However, if you are a county employee, or a city employee, or an employee of MUD you may opt out of the retirement system if you wish, or the county may not even have a retirement system, or a city may not even have a retirement system. So it would be a little difficult for us to say "shall" to them when you've told them you don't even have to have the system, to start with, if you don't want to, or as an individual you don't have to be part of it. Now I hope that is not too technical, that people can understand it. I can't speak technical. I can some times listen technical, and I can sometimes figure it out technical, but it always comes out of my mouth in plain English. I hope this is plain enough English you can understand that not one school board, anywhere in this state, is going to spend one dollar more than they are right now. I can assure you, as somebody that has been very cognizant of the property taxpayers of this state, that I would not have voted for this bill had I thought it was going to cost the property taxpayers more. With that, Mr. Clerk, I'd like to withdraw the motion to indefinitely postpone this bill.