

interrupt you, students, from his talking with you, but we need him on the floor.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Remmers' amendment is on page 2276 of the Legislative Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The Chair recognizes the panting Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I apologize for making you wait, but I was having an interesting visit with some sixth graders from Auburn, Nebraska, and they were asking some very good questions about what we were doing. On this amendment that I am proposing, it refers to salaries for state colleges. The Board of Trustees of the State Colleges has worked with comparisons of faculty employees of comparable institutions to the state colleges in order to determine a reasonable salary request. In 1984 a broad range of political employee board groups arrived at a consensus agreement that a multiyear continuous effort to achieve salary parity was in the best interest of the employees. The board and the state came in with these recommendations at \$327,000. While the \$327,000 was appropriated by the Legislature in '84-85 as the first increment, the number one priority of the State Boards of Trustees in its 1985-86 request was for \$332,000 for the second of the three increments. The current recommendation of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature does not allow for this expenditure for salary parity or other state college priorities. The current proposed budget assumes that the state contribution for the state colleges health insurance premium increase be taken from the proposed salary increases. I know that the resources are limited by the present tax projections are not good, but it may be necessary to slow down some of our government spending, but we still have some inflation, and if we want to maintain the quality of education at our higher institutions of education at the level that we expect, we must pay these people and this amendment would add \$330,000 to the general fund to make up the second increment of that salary increase and I would urge support for this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please, then Senator Scofield, then Senator Conway, then Senator Lundy.