

age 60. Now the reason I want to do that is this. There are occasions when I think that early retirement is a very important management tool to have available, and, in fact, I personally have presented to the Retirement Committee bills that are supportive of early retirement kinds of provisions. But to the best of my knowledge the Retirement Committee has yet to adopt a uniform policy regarding early retirements and so at this point the only policy that we really have is age 60 without any further thought as to whether or not there should be another retirement age. And I think that before I get into a position of supporting this measure, I want to have the whole concept of when the appropriate early retirement age, visited by the Retirement Committee, with recommendations made to this floor and I am not at this point prepared to accept 55 in this bill as the first step toward the early retirement law. I am prepared to go along with age 60, which is our current law, as the early retirement time. So all this amendment does is it simply strips out of the bill that fairly fundamental change to state law which would allow an employee to retire early at age 55 provided, however, that employee first had five years of service. I would leave that provision alone and make it that the state employee, as is existing law, can retire at age 60 provided that employee first have five years of service.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis, then Senator Higgins.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I intend to support the Johnson amendment. I've had a chance to look at a few of the amendments that await us on this bill. They are published in the Journal at 161 and 166 and they amount to early retirement for teachers. And while early retirement may make sense in some cases, there are some institutions, and among them the Lincoln Public Schools System, that selectively offer inducements to teachers paid for out of the Public Schools System on an as needed basis to accomplish the management objective of moving the older teacher out, one perhaps who doesn't quite have the vitality for the classroom that they once did. However, in the event that today plays out like I think the strategists have in mind, the Johnson amendment will fail, people will stand at attention and say, early retirement is being permitted for state employees, therefore, there must be early retirement for teachers with a slightly different rule, like the Rule of 90 in the DeCamp amendment, it's in the Journal, and we