

by now that experience is the best teacher.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Vickers, please, then Senator Landis.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I am glad that I was missing a little bit ago because I want to present the other side of the story that my good friend Senator Johnson just presented. Yes, experience is wonderful, experience is great and, yes, statistics indicate that many of the small rural schools because of the fact that they can't pay the salaries, and they don't have the benefits available in terms of social activities, that the teachers tend to be younger and tend to have less experience, and perhaps there is not quite as good of an education. But let's look at this issue from the point of the student for a change. Let's not talk about the taxpayers for a minute. Let's not talk about the teachers for a minute but let's talk about the students. Now if you are a student in a school and the person in front of your class is only there putting in their time, they are only there in an attempt to get the years in so that they can retire, they might have been a good teacher in the past, but right now they are burned out and they really want out. They want to go do something else. God forbid, they might even want to go out and farm or go into the construction business, Senator Hannibal. I don't know what they want to do but they want to do something else with their life, but they are going to be stuck there simply because we said, no, you can't take your money out, we won't let you retire unless we are going to whack your benefits a bunch. So you are going to be forced to stay there in front of those students for another two or three or four or five years. Now I want to remind you, the Omaha Public School District does have early retirement at full benefits at age 62, a little different than the rest of the teacher retirement system. They have got their own system. So there already is a little bit of an early retirement, if you will, for some teachers in this state. So as that student, then you are in front of a teacher who really doesn't care anymore, really only is putting in their time. Sure they might have 35 or 40 years of service but is that experience really worth it if they are not there because they want to be there? It seems to me that, and I am not saying that all elderly teachers, all teachers that are 55, 60, 62 years old are going to want to retire. I don't think that is true. I know of a lot of teachers that are 60 years old that are not