

burned out, that still love what they are doing, and I would suggest to you that, yeah, in those instances experience really is worth an awfully lot. If you have served in this Legislature for ten years or eight years and you love what you are doing and you want to stay here and you want to keep doing what you are doing, you are still a good member of this Legislature. On the other hand, if you are here for six years or only two years and you want out, you don't like it anymore, you probably aren't going to be a very good member of the Legislature. It seems to me the same thing holds true with the teaching profession. So look at it from the prospective of the student. I know a lot of teachers out there that are only putting in their time and I know a lot of students in this state that are going to be paying the cost and the cost is an awfully lot more than any cost we might incur by letting some folks retire a little bit early. If you really want to stay if you are 60 years old, it is to your monetary advantage to stay. Don't kid yourself in saying that we are setting in a mechanism that says if you retire under the Rule of 90 that you are going to encourage people to retire because that is not necessarily true. Remember, they are at the top of the pay scale, and the more years of service they get the better their retirement benefits are, and their salaries are probably going to continue to grow which means their benefits are going to be greater so there is still the incentive to stay in the system. We are not building in a disincentive. We are not saying that we are going to encourage people to retire because of this. It seems to me we are simply giving them the opportunity so that if they are burned out and they want out and they want to do something else, then we will say, fine, we will let you go out and we will then have people in front of the students of this state that have a desire to be there and the students will benefit. And, after all, I thought that was what education is all about. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis, then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I did have a brief discussion with one of my colleagues about the question of whether or not this amendment has been heard in public hearing and we did exchange some understandings. It is true that early retirement in one form or other has been talked about on more than one occasion in this body. The Revenue, rather, the Retirement Committee has on two