

still feel that that's good policy, but the employees have always wanted to have access to their money. They feel they put it in, they should have it back. Well, the compromise then before you is to allow 50 percent of it to be kept by them, 50 percent of it would be untouchable. The 50 percent of the state employee account would amount to about 20 percent, well actually about 25 percent of their total retirement benefit. So, well, no, excuse me, 20 percent of their total retirement benefit. So essentially the most they could blow, if they completely blew all of it, would be 20 percent and that's probably not going to hurt them so bad that they're going to be back on welfare. So that is why we thought we'd just split the difference and go with this proposal. I'd ask your support for it because it is better than what we have now, it's not as good as I'd like, but at least it will get us back to a situation where they can't get all of their money out in the employee account. So I ask your support. I'm sorry to take such a long time explaining it, but it is a little complicated.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you. Before proceeding to Senator Lundy on the Wesely amendment the Chair announces that in the north balcony we have 12 seniors from Murdock High School, guests of Senator Carsten, and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Also under the south balcony guests of Senator DeCamp, Leon Rutgers of Tilden, Leon McCoy of Neligh and Gerhard Wolf of Petersburg. Would you gentlemen please stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you. Senator Lundy, please.

SENATOR LUNDY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Wesely a question or two if I might.

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Wesely, do you yield?

SENATOR LUNDY: Senator Wesely, you indicated that there had been a court case in the State of Nebraska relative to the withdrawal of employees account...or the amount of money in employees accounts for those taking early retirement. Is this correct?

SENATOR WESELY: Actually there wasn't even a court case and this is kind of an irritant, I know you'd feel and I do about the situation. The Attorney General just on their own opinion came back and said it's unconstitutional, no court case whatsoever, but the Attorney General Opinion was enough