

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Arlene Nelson, please.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think as most of you know I did try to do my homework along with a number of the other senators a week or two ago. I passed out on the floor, dear colleagues...and I guess that I definitely could not see Rule of 90. First of all on the original proposal I don't think that the public or the teachers or anyone else was given the right information. Senator Wesely is right. We are not talking about small dollars. We are talking about big dollars. This does make a lot of difference in the education and the teachers. I have to take exception to one thing that we are seeing a shortage of teachers. I could...it may be down the road in 1990, but I think that the teachers salaries, wages are increasing, the benefits are, and so on, and I don't think that we'll see that shortage. In fact I think we have an increase in enrollment. In my own district we had 16 vacancies last year, 527 applicants, and they interviewed 324 people. Another small district they had 1 vacancy, they interviewed 32 applicants for 1 vacancy. So I really can't hardly accept that there is a shortage of teachers. I think in the Millard school system and so on teachers have to wait or they have to substitute for awhile to teach. People are asking me what am I going to support. I feel the same as Senator Remmers. I don't think that all teachers are going to retire at age 60. First of all a lot of the women cannot retire. They took time out, 12 or 15 years in life, and they don't have the years there. Of course, as all systems, the ones that gain the most are the higher paid or the administrators. I think we are talking about 315 administrators in the State of Nebraska. But with a reduction...and Senator Wesely is right, it is not a small amount of money. So I want each and every one of you to make up your mind how much money you are going to...you feel comfortable with. I also want you to know that we have a problem on special ed education, 97 percent salaries, the excess cost funded by 90 percent of the state. Every move that we make eventually does cost the State of Nebraska or the taxpayers. The thing come out and they say, well, it doesn't hurt, we have to get rid of the burned out teachers. I feel that that is the administrators problem. I can no longer go back to my taxpayers and say we have to offer an incentive to a very large group of people to enable you to get rid of 2, or 3, or 10, or 15 in my system that need to be out of the system. Sometime or another we have to have