

the intestinal fortitude to stand up and make those decisions as administrators. So I can't ask my taxpayers to do that. My district, as most of you know, offers early retirement at age 60. It is \$600 a year for years taught, so that comes to \$21,000 at age 60 and reduces down to \$3,500 a year at age 64, or \$12,250. They are free to do as they please. There were not too many teachers took advantage of that. In a three year period it was only a reduction in salary of \$110,529 out of a \$13.344 million payroll. So it was a reduction, but it was insignificant. But personally I am going to support the Pappas amendment. The rest of you will have to make up your own mind just exactly how many dollars you want to put into the system. I think that it is fair to the teachers that need to retire and fair to the taxpayers.

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, probably the only senator in this body who works with teacher training, and I would like to...I kind of agree with what Senator Nelson said, that I really see a rise in the number of young people going into teacher education. So I don't see this teacher shortage, that I don't see the sky falling down, we won't have teachers. And I really see that we...I support Senator Pappas's amendment and I think we are treating the other teachers differently than we have Omaha public. We've given Omaha public an early retirement after...when they are 62, that they can retire at 100 percent. So I really look at this, for all teachers, as an option, something that they can do. Someone said...Senator Wesely kind of addressed the money, you know that we really are funding lots of money into education. I really don't see it. The short time I've been down here we've really cut back on money for education. So I really don't see that. I think this is money coming out of local boards and I think that is one of the things that we should, as a state, allow some options. So, thank you. I support Senator Pappas's amendment.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem, followed by Senators Vard Johnson, Vickers and Hoagland.

SENATOR WITHEM: I would call the question.

SENATOR BARRETT: Call for the question. Do I see five