

Nebraska state colleges shall not be subject to the findings and orders of the Commission of Industrial Relations. Now, I would like for somebody to explain to me why it would be that a professor, teaching English in a state college system, or the university system, could not go to the Commission of Industrial Relations and yet that same professor, teaching English in the tech school system, in a community college some place, could. What is the rationale for that? Well, the only rationale I can think of is that the tech school system has the property tax to go back to. They don't have to just come to us to fund it. They can go to the property tax to fund it as well. Well, it seems to me that, we at the state level, had better start recognizing that we have a problem with coming up with funds, not only through the sales-income tax, but also through the property tax as well. And it would be... I think it is really unfair to say that for this year we've got this problem so, therefore, that English professor cannot go to the Commission of Industrial Relations because we are afraid that we might be in a situation where we might have to come up with some funds that we don't want to come up with. But, by the same token, if they are in a situation, or in a political subdivision doing the same thing that is funded from another source of taxation, that is the property tax, then it is okay. I have some real problems with that. I think that is, number one, it is either all right to go to the Commission of Industrial Relations or it is not. Number two, to make that separation, based on where the tax dollars come from, whether it comes from a sales or income tax or from the property tax doesn't really make an awful lot of sense to me. Now, Senator Schmit offered an amendment to this bill yesterday saying we're not going to have any increase in salary, period. And a large part of his efforts were based on the fact that we have some real economic difficulties across this state in rural Nebraska. Well, if that is the case, and I agree with him, it is the case, then those political subdivisions of rural Nebraska whose employees can go to the Commission of Industrial Relations, those policy-makers, those school board members, those county board members, those city council members, those boards of the tech schools have the same problem. They cannot or do not want to go to that property tax to support an increase in salaries either. But they really are caught between the devil and the deep blue because if they don't, on the one hand, then they may get an order from the Commission of Industrial Relations on the other saying yes,