

appropriate, at least appropriate, even if it weren't germane, appropriate for us to use this source of funds developed as a result of an educational legislative issue to be used for this particular program and for teachers. Makes all the sense and all the logic in the world. Some of us around here served on county boards, and we put together one to six year plans, so we know what that's like. My county, Douglas County, I just called, didn't have any plans to spend this money. I don't think the City of Omaha had or even the state obviously, but they'll sure find a way to spend it. Well I think the way we should find to spend it should be for what it was intended in the first place and in this case for teachers. And the least...all they're asking is to be...to have some of that money reestablished back into what was their commitment to begin with. And, in fact, I don't know if you want to go back far enough, we can...compared with what we pay teachers in other states surrounding us and what we should really pay teachers for the good work they do, it's still far short of what is possible. These funds also, you know, help the school districts because this is not money that they have to appropriate through a property tax. So I look at it not only from the point of view of being fair with the spending of dollars that were developed from an educational issue, but I look at it also from a point of view as a property tax relief measure as well. So I would encourage us to support this issue and if this amendment by Mr. Robinson accomplishes that, I certainly support it, and it is my understanding that it does, Bud, is that right? Your amendment would make it possible for us to establish these funds for the teachers in HELP, is that right?

SENATOR ROBINSON: That is not my amendment.

SENATOR LYNCH: No, it isn't?

SENATOR ROBINSON: No.

SENATOR LYNCH: Okay. Well, I talked to the issue and apparently you are laughing so maybe you were listening to that, but...and when I started, I said it. I said it. I said I am not sure what this amendment does, but if it helps, and I talked to the issue, so maybe I should stop right there, and I hope you are not screwing things up, Bud, with this amendment. That's all.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Kristensen.