

PRESIDENT: Stand by Senator Syas there is somebody else who might have some input. Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Senator Syas, the situation is that the legislation that we have been following here in Nebraska for the last several years and you have carried bills that Judge Novicough has reviewed for you or has prepared for you. Those bills were prepared in compliance with the National Conference and recommendations for the National Council for Workmens compensation. This sets voluntarily standards for all states to comply with. Judge Novicough when he appeared before the committee urging this resolution that this resolution be adopted explained to us and I would intend to agree with him that we have come fairly close in our legislation in complying with the recommended advisory national standards and workmens comp. We have come increasingly close every year and there is a large benefit to be derived from having Workmens Compensation administered locally through our own state individuals. The bill is in Congress and I believe that it is Senator Jarvis bill and he has had it in Congress for several years would greatly alter the nature of workmens compensation. The highest, for example, the highest compensation under the national standards is 100% of the average weekly income of the state. Under Senator Jarvis bill, we would be 200% of the average percent of the weekly income. There are many other major deviations from what would be the existing state workmens comp law that would be included in or expanded upon by federal legislation and it would be a total of the states responsibility towards workmens compensation and the committee generally agreed that that would not be desirable and that we should introduce the resolution urging congress not to take that kind of action because we feel that we can handle our workmens compensation situation here in Nebraska. Does that help you?

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Can I ask Senator Cavanaugh a question? Hasn't it also been true though that due to the federal government setting guide lines that the a...a...Nebraska has had to move off of its dead center and do something in this field. If we take the guidelines, isn't it true, away from the federal government to the state, maybe we will slip back to practically a do-nothing thing. I'm only asking that as question?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Yeah, I think that is true, I think that we have used the threat of federal legislation to pass legislation that greatly increases workmen compensation benefits.

(end belt #3)

(start belt #4)

here in this legislature. Now the question comes to have we gotten to a point in Nebraska Workmen Compensation law where we are reasonably satisfied with what we are giving the working man. Not that we don't need further improvements. In fact, I have a bill in this session to improve it, but we are improving at a rate that I think is fairly satisfactory to all parties concerned in Nebraska and this federal legislation goes much beyond what we probably desire here in Nebraska.

SENATOR SYAS: Would you answer another question. What is the Nebraska AFL/CIO think about this resolution?