

January 13, 1976

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator.

SENATOR SWIGART: I move to advance the bill as amended.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay.

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 499 introduced by the Labor Committee and signed by the members thereof. Read title. Mr. President, there are no Committee amendments or other amendments pending.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Chairman, this bill was sent to the Labor Committee by the Labor Department. It seems that they have problems with nonprofit organizations. They are able to elect to become liable for payments instead of contributions to unemployment compensation funds. The distinction between contributions are based on the percentage of the wages paid by the employer. While payments are, in effect, reimbursements to the fund for benefits which have been previously paid out on the account of an employer and this causes problems when a nonprofit organization goes out of existence and there are no funds available. Then they have to dip into the other funds that are provided by other employers so they feel that this would establish a system where they would have to make contributions and in this they would have the election of providing 4.8% of all the wages paid in the last four calendar quarters or be made on equal 1.2% of the wages paid in the calendar quarters, four calendar quarters previous to when the security deposit is due and this would be a one time payment and therefore this would guarantee that the funds would be available for unemployment compensation. I was not present at the hearing as I had another bill in the Appropriations Committee on that date and all I have to base my report is on the Committee, the rest of the members, they all voted in favor of the bill except one member who didn't vote, and so if any of the members of the Committee would like to comment on this bill, I would appreciate if they would do so. If they wish to speak, I wish they would speak up.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I don't know too much about this bill but I would like somebody on the Committee tell me that if this is going to mean that the ministers and the priests and lay leaders who receive a salary from church organizations and nonprofit organizations are going to pay into the unemployment compensation of the state, and if they are, are they going to be eligible to receive this? This is something I should know.

SENATOR MARESH: Senator Keyes, I don't believe any