

March 8, 1976

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, question of Senator Mills please. Senator Mills, so that I might better understand Senator Cavanaugh's amendment, if he attempts to delete from your bill the language which you have included would an abuse come about by an individual being able to claim under unemployment compensation as well as under social security benefits?

SENATOR MILLS: No sir, you cannot at this time draw both.

SENATOR STONEY: You cannot draw both simultaneously.

SENATOR MILLS: You cannot draw both.

SENATOR STONEY: Could you further explain for me then the abuses to which you just referred.

SENATOR MILLS: Well the reason why, and I said that there weren't so many but there were some cases that had been brought to our attention that were people retired from a job. They said "alright, I'm 65. I'm quitting. I'm going on social security". This person would then sign up for social security but, as you know, it takes awhile for all those gears to be moving and it takes awhile for it happen. So in the interim period they would apply for unemployment compensation. There were some people that did not think that this was correct, that they were going to get reimbursed for their social security when they finally got their check. So they would doubly have been drawing during that period. But once their social security check started they would be unable to draw unemployment compensation from then on forward.

SENATOR STONEY: In other words if they made application for social security benefits during the interim they might also apply for unemployment compensation, be compensated and then, when social security benefits were approved they go back retroactive to the date of employment which is a duplication in benefits?

SENATOR MILLS: That's what I understand, Senator Stoney. It is not a large amount of the people involved, but it was enough that we thought it should be written in here.

SENATOR STONEY: Well I think I agree with what you have in the bill and would have to oppose Senator Cavanaugh's amendment if what Senator Mills says is correct. I think it's ludicrous that we would allow benefits ... duplication of benefits to individuals. That appears to me what's attempting to be done here. I would have to be in opposition to Senator Cavanaugh's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'd just like to say this, that I know that Senator Cavanaugh's addressed the problem here which needs to be discussed. I would agree with Senator Mills. I would hope that the Legislature will follow him and then pass his bill. I think the bill is needed. I do want to say this, I'm afraid it's not going to solve the problem, but we would like to have it solved because the matter of identifying the voluntarily unemployed is going to stay with us. I do not believe we're going to identify that individual as scrupulously as we should, and I want the record to show that.