

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell, Senator Mills was closing. Would you direct your question to the Chair?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I would like to ask Senator Mills if it would be possible to provide a little more time in which possibly I could help Senator Brennan and Senator Mills come to some sort of an understanding of this. Maybe we can work it out without any sort of a.....

PRESIDENT: He closed his argument on the advancement of the bill or the amendment, I mean. Record your vote. Have you all voted? Have you voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 11 nays on the Mills amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Do you have anything further?

CLERK: I have nothing further on this bill.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Mills, do you want to make your motion....Senator Lewis, for what purpose do you ask recognition.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I was going to speak on the bill.

PRESIDENT: Well, we will let Senator Mills do it first. Senator Mills.

SENATOR MILLS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would, first of all, move that the bill be advanced. Then I would like to try to explain what it does do. After you look through the bill, you will see that, number one, and again I want to explain it as closely to you, Senator Lewis, as I possibly can. It has included, because the committee amendments were defeated, it does include the retirement concern for the veterans, number one. Number two, it does change that particular period in time for those persons who have been...voluntarily quit or who are fired for just cause and I think that there is a bill introduced by Senator Hefner that addresses that area and as certainly I have talked to some of you about some type of compromise that you might have relating to that area. The fourth part, perhaps, is the most significant to some businesses and I want you to be aware of that. On page 8, line 12, you will notice that the word three is stricken and four is inserted. What this does is the fund is paid into by employers across the State of Nebraska at different levels. 1976 the fund dipped to an all-time low of approximately sixteen million dollars and now has returned to around 49 or 50 million dollars. During that period, the Nebraska Department of Labor changed the contribution rate paid by all businesses in the State of Nebraska to 3.7 which was legally allowable. Many of them had only been on a .5 or .61 contribution rate and they found themselves, as Senator Mahoney used to describe those momma, papa grocery stores, found themselves paying the same rate, the 3.7%, to the Department of Labor for unemployment fund as did the construction companies, as did some companies whose employees were really drawing from that fund. So it was felt unfair at that time that those businesses who had employees who had been with them for years, whose employees had never drawn from the unemployment benefit fund, that those employers were helping to pay for that particular fund. So the reason we have raised it at this par-