

spendable income. So it is a significant difference in Iowa, not just in maximum amounts, Iowa being somewhere between two and three times greater in their benefits than Nebraska is, but also in the percentage of the average weekly wage. Now I currently have some clients that have cases up in the Workmen's Compensation Court. I am representing right now an individual who was a carpenter, who was making over \$20,000 a year, now because of the litigation his average weekly benefits are \$120 a week, which is somewhere around \$5000 a year. So he was injured due to no fault of his own. He is temporarily totally disabled. He is making about one-quarter of what he was making before. Now I just don't think we can afford to treat our disabled workers in Nebraska in that fashion, and I am offering this amendment which essentially splits the difference at seven and a half between Senator Barrett's amendment and Senator Wiitala's bill. I would ask that you support this amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR LANDIS: The next speaker is Senator Kilgarin. Do you wish to address the Hoagland amendment? Following that is Senator Nichol. Do you wish to address the Hoagland amendment, Senator Nichol? Senator Hefner, your light is on as well, third in order. Do you wish to speak to the Hoagland amendment?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose the Hoagland amendment and rather support the Barrett amendment as presented. Another point I would like to point out to the body is that this money that these employees receive from workmen's comp is tax free and, of course, that means like if we would adopt the Hoagland amendment, we would take...if the employee was in the 20 percent bracket, it would mean nearly an extra \$50. So instead of paying them a little over \$200 well we would be paying them something like \$250 or maybe a little more than that. If we stay with the Barrett amendment of \$200 and you take 20 percent times that, that would be an extra \$40, and so I think we have got to realize that this money that they receive from workmen's comp is free from federal income tax, free from state income tax and also they do not have to pay Social Security on it. So, therefore, I would urge you to reject the Hoagland amendment and support the Barrett amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Barrett on the Hoagland amendment.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, obviously I rise in opposition to Senator Hoagland's effort