

February 13, 1979

LB 114

SENATOR BRENNAN: Thank you. With the raises that we have had in the last few years, I wonder if Senator Cope or the rest of the people realize that the rates for workmen's comp has gone down 15% overcoming the raises we have had. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: All right, the Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, fellow members of the Legislature, I don't think the issue before us this morning is compromise. The issue before us this morning is whether we want to raise this to \$4.50 an hour which is a considerable amount of money out in my country for people who are injured and I am not against those who are injured. I support Senator Hefner's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, just some remarks. The \$180.00 figure was discussed at the hearing and there was really no outcry that it was alarming and since the bill was advanced no one approached me to say that we did the wrong thing to advance it at \$180.00. This additional amount would increase the premiums by about .9% so it is not a vast increase. The Brennan bill would have been an increase of about 3.7% and the \$170.00 amount was 1.8% so this is in between which would be about .9%. So I feel is is not outrageous. I think it is a reasonable amount and another thing, this is just for those people at the top bracket at the top salary rate and it does not include a vast amount of people. This is covering only certain people at the high salary rate.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President and members, whenever we come to either workmen's compensation or unemployment, I think this is the most misunderstood issue on this floor. It took me a while, too, to at least partially understand it. As far as I can see, looking at the bills, whether that is LB 113 or 114, we are not changing the sixty six two third percent. We are just talking about the lid and the lid was proposed as \$180.00. I still believe that some of us probably do not realize who might actually get that lid of \$180.00. Could I just ask Senator Brennan a question? Senator Brennan, would you yield to a question? Is there some computation that would tell us what the average salary is per week in Nebraska?

PRESIDENT: Senator Brennan, would you respond?