

March 29, 1979

LB 183

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, I, too, oppose this amendment. The committee put this bill out with the \$100 figure and I think that is where it should stay. Senator Brennan voted for the committee amendment on General File and that is the way it was advanced. I think we should stay with that \$100 figure. Initially the mail was heavy on this bill opposing the \$110. The committee saw fit to amend this down and the mail that was opposing the bill now is quiet. So I think we should go along with the \$100 figure instead of amending it to \$106 as Senator DeCamp proposes.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question is, shall debate cease? Five hands. I see five hands. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted on the motion? Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate has ceased. The Chair first recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I find myself in an odd position. I think in the past years I probably killed the unemployment bill as much as I have done anything. I have argued against it vociferously and vigorously but I think there were two things stated here that maybe tell the whole story. Senator Hefner used the word, he said unemployment is for people who, in his words, through no fault of their own lost their job. And then he proceeded to talk about abuses. Any program that government deals with unfortunately has the potential for abuse. That does not mean you necessarily eliminate the program. It means you control the program, enforce it wisely, and punish severely those who would abuse it. Now the \$110 versus \$100, as I say, my amendment goes half way in between. Senator Hefner said there is an 11% increase, an 11% increase but, remember, the last time was two years ago. This is the third year so what is 11% over what, three years and maybe four, because I will probably, in fact I will tell you, I will be fighting it next year. So 11% over four years, does anybody other than a legislator want to tell me that they didn't get a bigger increase in income or salary over the last four years than an average of what, less than 3% a year. I doubt it. So we are talking 11% increase indeed