

May 2, 1979

LB 489

SENATOR HEFNER: I think we ought to spell it out, but I'd still oppose the amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Well that's actually it. You see the reason that Senator Hefner opposes the bill is not because it isn't sufficiently descriptive, but because he's against the bill. Now I've just offered to make it as descriptive, which he said was the fault of the bill, and I'm happy to do that. We can offer an amendment to say, higher wages, lower hours. Senator Lamb wants to be questioned on this point and I will be happy to yield to him. Senator Lamb, would you be willing to allow an amendment like that to be drawn... (interruption)

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb, will you respond?

SENATOR LAMB: Well, my question is, if I consider shorter hours as better employment but at lower salary, I think we have a basis for an argument and there is no way to define it because I could say that I'm more interested in shorter hours than I am in more money.

SENATOR LANDIS: I understand the question, Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: And I can't see a way to resolve it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb, you are responding to his question, that's what we're...

SENATOR LANDIS: That's all right. I'm glad to understand that because it provides the same basis for answering objections to the bill. There is a Nebraska Appeal Tribunal, a quasi judicial body that handles and resolves these issues and makes determinations which have precedence all the way down the Department of Labor rules and regulations, and the application of this kind of a statute. If you're asking me whether or not there can be a question, yes, the first time there will be one, the Appeals Tribunal will solve it. They will issue a ruling on these kinds of cases, and there will be one standard of application. I want to point out to this body in the remaining time that I have the unfairness of the state of Nebraska saying to a married couple, you have to stay apart if you wish to get those kinds of benefits to which everyone else is available, and that is if you leave your job for the purpose of traveling with your spouse to go someplace else so that they can get a job, when you leave