

have here is a question of whether or not we are going to treat people differently because of what they happened to have suffered. I am one who believes that we ought to have a uniform system and I fully believe that this amendment does that. If the rate is too low, then there is no reason why we can't come back another year and say, "Well, the rate is too low." But I, for one, would like to see us get to the point where we treat everyone on the same basis whether they happen to be a veteran or whether they happen to be a poor person, whether they happen to be an elderly, whether they happen to be in a wheelchair. If they are making the kind of money that some of these people are making, certainly there is no reason for this state to underwrite for them something they can afford to pay for themselves. That is the reason why when Senator Landis asked me whether I would be interested in cosponsoring this amendment, I told him I certainly would because I believe that we are going in the right direction.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, it bothers me when certain members of this body forget that there is some people who pay a considerable price that we have the privilege to discuss this issue today with a freedom of speech. The first amendment, because many of them paid the most supreme price, some of them still suffer from the infirmities, even though it may not have happened in the action directly involved. Who knows what happens to some of these individuals as a result of the psychological effects of the trauma. I voted for this amendment the other day and I was going to admit right now I didn't take time to see what the effect of that amendment was. I want to remind you this state has never given to its veterans a bonus. Many have. One of the things we try to do though is we tried to give him other rewards. You may say that we are treating him differently. So be it. Maybe we are treating them differently. I would like for us to see or to empathize ourselves into a position where we have crippling diseases or loss of arms or legs and then see how much it is worth to you. Is it worth a few thousand dollars to spend the rest of your life in that kind of a condition? How many of you people are willing to do that? I doubt not many of you would. We don't know the full impact of what we did the other day and I think in fairness to veterans who've had certain privileges there should be a full and complete hearing on the issue. Then if this body determines in its wisdom it is appropriate, we will do it but right now in this state the veterans have never received a bonus and never will. They took their bonus in lieu of that bonus and put it in a fund to help needy