

SENATOR MARESH: Senator Higgins, that is why we are are phasing this in slowly and if it does cause a lot of concern we can come back next year and rewrite the formula but we thought that we should enact this to get it next year, not this first year but second year and gradually phase it in in three steps, no change the first year and a gradual change the following year and then the full amount the third year. We are going to have an interim study and if the contractors can come up with these large increases we can come back next year and make a more moderate increase.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator, let me ask you this.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Why should they pay more, since they have no control over how long their season will run? I mean, if they were firing people left and right without cause, or laying them off without cause, but this is something they have no control over. I think when you phase this in you are going to phase the construction industry out.

SENATOR MARESH: Do you think that it is fair to have the person that has no unemployment experience at all to be having their rates increased constantly? Do you think that is fair? The small business people that never fire anybody?

SENATOR HIGGINS: I am one of them. I am one of them. I don't like paying it either.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, Senator Newell and then Senator Vickers.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, I would speak very briefly. One of the things that bothers me about this bill is that we have a situation where we are making some tremendous changes. Now some people don't think they are tremendous they are just significant. I don't know if there is much of a difference between tremendous and significant but there are quite a few changes in the bill. One of them is one that employers seem very happy with, very comfortable