

contributions, because a contractor has to bid that and he has to include that as part of his cost of doing business. When I get the figure of how many millions of dollars the state spends every year in construction then you can figure out how much the cost of construction for the state is going to go up and it will also effect cities and counties that also do construction work. I would like you to think about that along with the other things that I have mentioned. Again, I sympathize, I am an employer myself that is paying this 3.7 rate. But I really and truthfully believe from the contractors that I have talked to that this will be the straw that will break the construction industries back in Nebraska. High interest is already putting them...the smaller ones out of business. There hasn't been that much construction because of the interest rates. If we do this to them, then you talk about unemployment, when those contractors go out of business who is going to contribute then to the fellows and women that are laid off? When that runs out then we go to welfare. Then it is no longer the employers that pay, then it is going to be the tax payer again. I would just like all of you to think about this when you think about the Maresh amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, we have four that wish to speak before noon; Senator Stoney, Senator Goodrich, Senator Cope, Senator Maresh, Senator Newell, five. Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some additional questions of Senator Maresh if he would respond please. Senator Maresh, I think that the debate that we have had on this issue has been very informative, it has been very helpful to me. To help me better understand why we are advocating this change it might be well for me to know who is advocating this change? Is it the State Department of Labor here in Nebraska?

SENATOR MARESH: No, they have been opposing the bill. Commerce and industry proposed this formula in our original bill, 394.

SENATOR STONEY: So the Department of Labor feels comfortable with the present formula that we are using.

SENATOR MARESH: I think it is easier for them to administer than this would be. I can't see why they are putting out the information of going up to 90 million when it isn't necessary. Can you imagine the employers putting up with