

April 24, 1981

LB 394

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, this amendment comes at the most inopportune time. I would like to withdraw it for right now and try the second one. I will explain....

SPEAKER MARVEL: Do you want to withdraw the other one? How many do you have up there?

SENATOR NEWELL: I have got one more that I would like to discuss very briefly.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, you ask unanimous consent to withdraw the first one?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Hearing no objection, so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Newell moves to amend: (Read the Newell amendment.) Mr. President, that amendment is also found on page 1497 of the Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes. Mr. President and members of the body, I offer this amendment, basically as I said earlier when we were discussing 394 that with the kind of changes that this bill is making we really do need to clarify some things that have not been clarified previously, and that is, what is good cause. If, in fact, you are going to see fit to cut benefits after a 7 to 10 week period by half, then I think we must more accurately determine what exactly is good cause. What I am proposing here is to make two provisions which have long been important and should have been put in the statute long ago, good cause, sexual harassment and quitting to follow a spouse. Frankly, sexual harassment speaks for itself, and quitting to follow a spouse I think is very simple. In many families today two incomes are necessary to keep the family finances in order and oftentimes when one spouse must change employment, that requires...especially if there is a move, that requires the second spouse to quit their job and search for new employment in a new area. I think it is important that we provide that provision, make that understanding that we want to keep families together, that we are concerned about people and, therefore, quitting to follow a spouse is, in fact, good cause. That is basically what the amendments do. I think they are meritorious. They should be added to this bill if, in fact, this bill is going to move, and so I urge the body to accept this amendment.