April 24, 1981

LB 394

disgualification assessed in that sort of a situation. The remainder of the language where he mentions. "or to conditions of employment maintained at the place of employment attributable to the employer or to conditions of employment maintained at the place of employment", that it seems to me would be pretty broad. I am not exactly sure how that would be interpreted, but it could be interpreted I assume that any type of condition could be claimed by a certain employee that that was what forced him to leave. And I think that would be a disastrous effect on the unemployment compensation fund. I don't think that is the intention. I think we need to keep in mind that the real intention of unemployment compensation is to compensate those people that through no fault of their own are out of work, not to compensate those people that voluntarily guit their job. unless under certain specific circumstances like sexual harassment or something of that nature where they can prove that there was a reason they quit, then they are not disqualified right now. So I strongly urge the body's rejection of Senator Newell's amendment because I think it would open the door considerably more than what any of us would really like it to do.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we call on Senator Hefner, there are a hundred students either in the balcony or will be in the north balcony from Creighton, Nebraska. Mrs. Faith is the teacher, and Senator Hefner is the legislator. Are you all up there from Creighton? Okay, then there must be some more coming. I think some of them went up to see the Sower and they will be down in a little while. Now, Senator Hefner, do you wish to be recognized on the....?

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to be recognized. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment. If you will recall in earlier debate it was mentioned that the Business and Labor Committee had approximately 12 to 15 bills that dealt with the unemployment compensation situation, and, of course, this is one of the bills that they moved to the floor, LB 394. I feel that good cause is spelled out now and it is also determined by the Labor Commissioner. I think what Senator Newell here is doing is weakening the bill. Last fall when the Small Business Conference, Governor's Conference met, one of the things that they wanted to see the Legislature do was to tighten up the unemployment compensation bills that we have in Nebraska. They felt that we needed to take care of those employees that quit or that were laid off at no fault of their own, and now we have with this amendment saying that they could receive benefits if they left for certain reasons or if their spouse left for certain reasons, well we would

1: 3830