

April 24, 1981

LB 394

opposed vote no. Have you all voted? All this vote needs is a simple majority. Does anybody else wish to vote? Okay, record the vote.

CLERK: 23 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Goodrich's amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the Goodrich amendment to the committee amendments is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Stoney now moves to amend the committee amendments by striking section 5.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, you will recall yesterday when we discussed this issue that I offered some reservation relative to making the change in our current percentage structure for calculating benefits for unemployment compensation. My concern is that we are going from a tried and true system which is one that is supported by the State Department of Labor and in the alternative adopting one that allows for a solvency rate adding a multiplying factor, one which is very comprehensive and would change our system here very dramatically in the State of Nebraska. I really have to say that I see no demonstrated need for this particular change. Now I know that there are...and Senator Maresh confirmed yesterday during our debate, \$70 million presently in the fund, so there is not a shortage. There is an abundance of funding. The claims that are being made for unemployment compensation are being met. Therefore, I see no reason for this change. If it is necessary to adjust either the ceiling or the floor, I am sure that with the present formula the proper alterations could be made which would be acceptable and provide the additional dollars that would be necessary in meeting unemployment compensation claim needs. I also found that this particular position which is espoused by the Nebraska Association of Commerce and Industry may not be a majority opinion... I don't want to say that it is a minority opinion, it is just my understanding that the members of this association did not have an opportunity to vote collectively on this issue, so we may be expressing rather than a majority opinion a minority in its stead. I also mentioned yesterday that the new formula which we are attempting to implement with the passage of this bill is a new one. It is very unique. No other state in the Union has attempted to use this formula, with the exception of the State of Kansas, our neighbor to the south, and they had an unfavorable