

Stoney amendment strikes section 5 from the bill which is the solvency section. That would leave in the bill the \$10 increase that the employees are asking for and it would also leave in the bill the 50 percent clause that if he voluntarily quits, walks away from his job, he only collects 50 percent of his weekly benefit. If we just passed that much of the bill, which is what the Stoney amendment would do, then we could come back and work over the summer months to work on the add-on provision instead of a multiplier provision as far as the solvency rate is concerned. We could then...and since we are not going to put it into effect this coming year anyhow, what harm have we done? I would suggest we adopt the Stoney amendment, eliminate the solvency problem, and then we have left in the \$10 thing and, we have left in the \$10 increase for the benefits for each employee, and we have got the 50 percent reduction if he walks away from his job deal. I would remind you, for example, what Senator Stoney said. Kansas went with the multiplier deal. They have abandoned it. The add-on method is much better because you can add on specifically to the sections, the categories of those employers that do cause the problems on the drain of the fund, but you add on just to them and you are not hurting the present employers that do have good experiences. For that reason I would support the Stoney amendment and urge you to pass this which would in essence leave the bill something that both sides get something out of and be done with it. I would urge your adoption of the Stoney amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins and then Senator Vickers.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I hate to be repetitious, but I think Senator Hefner made the point that 16 percent of the employers were using the bulk of the compensation funds. Was it you, Senator Hefner, that made that statement, or maybe Senator Maresh? Sixteen percent of them might be using up the bulk of the money, but they are the second largest industry in the whole State of Nebraska, and if you didn't have them, I wonder how much to the economy they are contributing. We are talking about what they are taking out of the unemployment compensation fund. Nobody is talking about the millions of dollars that they are putting into the economy every day, the construction industry. Nobody is talking about the people that would be laid off if these new rates go into effect because the construction industry is going to be hit the hardest since by an act of God they have to be a seasonal operation. Now I will grant you some contractors such as those building houses or commercial buildings, they can work around to working indoors part of the time. But your roadbuilders don't.