

May 11, 1981

LB 234

I think in the area of Workmen's Compensation we have to remember that there is a trade off whereby if the benefits are paid, employers gain certain immunities against certain suits. I think we have to be fair in this and try to adjudicate this frequently to make sure that everything is in balance. I think the increase is reasonable. I don't think it is exorbitant. I think we have to remember we are talking about Workmen's Compensation now. We are not talking about employment compensation and I support the motion to bring the bill back.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I don't need to talk now, thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the return of the bill for a specific amendment as explained by Senator Fowler. Did you want to close, Senator Fowler? All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? It takes 25 votes. Once more, have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 10 nays on the motion to return the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The bill is returned. Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I would move for adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the adoption of the amendment. Is there any discussion? Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this. I think it was just last year or two years ago that we did raise this and I think this increase is coming on the heels of just an increase of several years ago and of course every time the benefits go up it costs somebody more money and business and employers, industries are having a rough time of making a go right now. Therefore, I would urge you to oppose this amendment. I think this is about the same increase that was presented to the committee in LB 115 and the committee did not see fit to move this out or at least nobody had it as their priority bill. Now we are coming at the last minute when a bill is on Final Reading and we are attempting to put it on a bill so that it will take effect this session. I think we ought to let LB 115 take its course and see if the body wants to increase it. Therefore, I would urge you to oppose this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Marsh.