

SENATOR HIGGINS: I see. So we are going to increase weekly benefits and burial benefits.

SENATOR MARESH: Both.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I would have to say that I think it is very fair to increase the burial benefits from \$1,000 to \$2,000. I don't think you could bury somebody in a gunny sack today for \$1,000 but Senator Landis made the statement that nobody is going to go out and injure themselves just to collect a paycheck every week. Senator Landis, right now one of the companies that I insure has paid out so far, \$13,000 to a man who got injured working on the job, strained his back, and that was several months ago. So the company went to interview him to see how he was doing and he has moved back to Missouri and when they went to Missouri to interview him, he is now driving a tractor. So the company is now making an adjustment in which they are paying him. Where they had been paying him total disability and already it has cost, we say the insurance company \$13,000 but his employer is going to get one heck of an increase in his Workmen's Compensation insurance rate next year and yet this man has been driving a tractor we don't know how long. So there are many instances. We have had instances where people have left work on Friday feeling fine. They come back to work Monday and they say, oh, I wrenched my back Friday and I forgot to tell you. Checking it out we found out they painted their house over the weekend and fell off the ladder. So, I grant you, nobody injures themselves intentionally on the job but, believe me, we do have abuses of it. I would support the part of the bill that would raise the burial benefits from \$1,000 to \$2,000 but the weekly benefits from my own personal experience, and I have seen this most recently when inflation has been going on and where there has been a lot of unemployment, that I have seen a lot of abuses of Workmen's Compensation and it is a shame that we don't have enough people to investigate every claim to weed out legitimate claims for the bad, but speaking for the small businessmen, I have to say that I could not support this amendment, giving them an extra \$10 a week in view of the fact that I have seen too many employees abuse what they are being given. Thank you, Senators.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I will oppose the amendment for several reasons. Senator Hefner gave very good reasons. I think that our unemployment compensation benefits are fair and I think they are comparable to other states. I think it is too late to bring this amendment back. It could kill the bill which I think is a good bill. I can support