

March 15, 1982

LB 765

SENATOR BARRETT: Yes, Senator Wesely, the committee considered this at great length, substantial conversation, and a lot of work in this area. However, we did find that there are a lot of states now who are going to this requalifying system, I believe about 40 in all, and specifically South Dakota and Washington, D. C. have very recently, I think within the last year, gone to this type of requalifying system and it has worked very well. Actually a disqualified claimant under the question raised by Senator Landis does remain disqualified until he or she goes back to work which is pretty much the heart of the argument I guess. The worker who quits job after job after job remains disqualified under the present provisions of 765, the requalifying system, and one of the purposes for this particular section is to stop that type of job hopping.

SENATOR WESELY: I see. Okay. Well, I know that Senator Wiitala also has some concerns and will have an amendment I guess on Select File on this bill. What Senator Barrett has described sounds favorable to me. I guess the concern I have had in dealing with this issue in the past has always been how to draw that line. It is clear in my mind that there have been some abuses in the unemployment compensation area we need to tighten up. On the other hand, we don't want to have the pendulum swing back so far the other way that we have a situation where those who legitimately have left a job, have attempted to better themselves, and with our economy as it is today, we all know it is volatile and at a point at which we can't even see at this time we may see jobs closing down that we thought were the brightest future of any that we have a potential of participating in. So it seems to me quite clear that we want to keep an eye out towards the poor situation that we all don't like to recognize and that being that the economy is slowing down, somebody takes another job, the job is lost to them, and they are back on the street and they aren't requalified for unemployment compensation doesn't seem very fair to me. But I know the direction that is being taken in this bill is a fair one. So I guess as we are discussing in fifteen minutes legislation and the fact is I haven't had a chance to review it in detail, perhaps this is a little too quick a pace at which to consider such an important measure. As we look at the economy today, we have to keep in mind there are many, many Nebraskans that are unemployed...

SENATOR CLARK: You only have ten seconds.

SENATOR WESELY: ...and we all know that it is going to get worse.