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Well, we have waited another year and if we do not support it now, it is another year. In other words, if we increase it \$10 a year from now we are talking about a little over \$2 a year increase. I don't care what the state of the economy is, that is a terrible proposition if you are disabled. Thank you, colleagues.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the Unicameral, I rise to oppose the reconsideration motion because like I said the other day, now is not the time to raise this. Why? Because when you raise the workmen's comp \$10 a week, this increases the insurance premiums. Like Senator Higgins said the other day, certainly the insurance agents are for it. If I was an insurance agent, I would be for it too because I would be earning more premiums. The reason that I oppose this reconsideration motion also is because our economy is down. Had this come up in January I probably would have supported it, but things have changed, things have changed a great deal. We just saw the March sales tax receipts. They were down 21 percent in March. Retail sales are down all the way now from 10 percent to 25 percent. How are the employers going to pay this additional premium? Many industries and businesses will have to take bankruptcy if this trend doesn't change. And, of course, if you noticed in today's World Herald, there was a long list of bankruptcies. The maximum weekly payment at the present time is \$180 per week and this isn't too shabby especially when you see that they do not have to pay federal and state income tax. They do not have to pay Social Security on this. That means that the pay actually is around two and a quarter a week or 235, \$235 a week. So I say to you today, let's wait until next January. If the economy turns around, we will come back with a bill and try to give the employees a little more increase in workmen's comp. I am hoping that Senator Wiitala will withdraw his motion and if he doesn't, well then I would urge you to reject the motion before us today. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I want to take just a few minutes to speak about the \$10 a week increase to workmen's compensation. When a person sustains an on the job injury, because of that injury that person is not able to work for a period of time, and our workmen's compensation program allows that individual to receive benefits up to a maximal amount. Those benefits, frankly, have little relationship to the earnings of that

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