

April 6, 1989

LB 410, 414

PRESIDENT: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB 410 pass? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: (Read record vote as found on pages 1541-42 of the Legislative Journal.) 38 ayes, 0 nays, 11 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 410 passes. LB 414, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk. Senator Hall would move to return the bill for specific amendment. Senator Hall's amendment is on page 1522, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President. The amendment, as the Clerk stated, is found on pages 1522 through 1526 of the Journal. And they deal with the issue of unemployment compensation and the increase that is found in a bill that was brought to the Business and Labor Committee by Senator Lindsay. The motion here is one to return LB 414 to Select File, at which time I will move to suspend the rules so that the amendment can be offered, and because I think clearly the issue of germaneness would be raised, and that spectrum would be raised anyway. But the point is one of an increase in benefit amount. An agreement, so to speak, I guess was worked out, and the bill that Senator Lindsay brought before the committee was advanced. But because of time it will not be heard this year. The bill, as we have done in the past, in the last increase that was allowed for spreads the increase out over a two year period. It would allow for an \$8 increase January of 1990, and an additional \$8 in January of 1991. The...I don't think there is much discussion necessary on whether or not the increase is necessary. It has, I think for the first time ever, received editorial support from the state's largest newspaper, the first time that I can remember anyway. And it is an issue that affects the greatest number of employees that find themselves, through no fault of their own, out of work. Nebraska has one of the lowest, if not the lowest unemployment benefit amounts, maximum amounts of any state. And in many senses that is very good because our unemployment fund is very healthy. We have not had the problems that other states have had because of the numbers of people that have found themselves out of work. But