

that is not because of the benefit amounts, that is not because of the benefit amount, or at least the maximum amount that is allowed that we try to increase here. What that stems from is the way that we determine who is eligible and who is ineligible. But this bill and this amendment does not affect that. What we have found, at least for the four years I spent on the Business and Labor Committee, and I think other members will testify to that effect, that Nebraska disqualifies more people than any other state in the nation. We have talked about that issue, and I think Senator Coordsen has even talked about looking at that issue during an interim study proposal in the near future, that Nebraska, because of the fact that we can go back over the last number of jobs that an individual has held to determine whether or not they were eligible, has the highest number, far and away, of disqualifications of any other state in the nation. That is one of the reasons and probably the chief reason that our unemployment trust fund has been as solid as it has. The other reason is just because people are very willing to work and they'll take whatever they can find in terms of employment in order to keep money coming in to pay the bills. This a very modest increase. It is a very modest increase to a very modest maximum amount that is currently allowable, and I think that it is important that we do this this year, so that this benefit increase will take place next year, for 1990, and then again another additional \$8 in 1991. We have adopted this option of a two year proposal with regard to the increase. It is something that both business and labor have agreed to this type of a format. I think that it's important that we get this issue across the board this year, otherwise there will be another year's delay, we will have both the unemployment issue and the workers comp issue come up next year. At that point in time both of them will be necessary to increase. Through talking with Senator Coordsen and others, the issue of splitting the two benefits, or doing one one year, unemployment increase one year, a workers comp increase the next, is a route that business favors. I think to pass this increase this year, put it into effect, come back the following year and look at the workmen's comp issue is an appropriate way to go about the process. With that, Mr. President, I would ask the body to first return the bill to Select File for purposes of this amendment. Prior to the amendment, though, I will have the...the motion is currently on the Clerk's desk to suspend the rules. So there is no question with regard to the germaneness issue. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, please.