

an honest increase. I wish it were more. I think it should be more. And I don't think we buy off on any agreement. I think my suggestion, I mean that bill was held in committee for an entire year. I was told last year that one of the bills, either unemployment or workers' comp, was going to come out in 1989, and then the other bill would come out in 1990, so you alternated years. Neither bill came out of committee last year. When you are at an impasse like that in that particular committee and there are four votes against you, apparently, I think that compromise is a forced compromise. It is a compromise of coercion. It is not something that is voluntary and some kind of fair negotiations that are going on when you are faced with the prospect of not having the bill come out or at least making some concession. I would urge you to amend the committee amendments, retain the part that pertains to the deductible, retain the part about LB 986, I think that is fine idea.

PRESIDENT: Time has expired.

SENATOR McFARLAND: But increase the benefits from 255 to 275 and bring us in line with our surrounding states, and at least bring us to comparable to Kansas. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. I have a couple of lights that were on prior to us skipping to the McFarland amendment. Please indicate if you do or don't want to talk about the McFarland. Senator Hefner, then Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise to oppose the McFarland amendment because I feel that is going too far. Workmen's compensation premiums are going up by leaps and bounds and I just want to talk about the small business part of it. Small businesses in rural Nebraska are struggling to make a go of it, and if we raise this too far, it will certainly put a hardship on them. Right now the weekly benefit is \$245 a week, and under the committee amendment, it would go up \$10, 255, this year, and another \$10 a week the following year, so I think that is reasonable. And I also want to talk a little bit about the second part of the committee amendment. This is the deductible on workmen's comp. Since the premiums on workman's comp are going up by leaps and bounds, I thought it would be good to put a deductible on. We have deductibles on our fire insurance. We have deductibles on our...on some of our other insurance, like car insurance. Why not have it on workmen's