

get them by until they are able to go back to work. They didn't choose to be injured on the job.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: They did not choose to be injured on the job. Let's help them out as much as we can, because if we don't do it this year, next year they are going to go, gosh, we just addressed that last year, we can wait another five or ten before we address it again.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please, followed by Senator Coordsen, and Senator McFarland. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I, too, rise in support of the McFarland amendment to increase further the workmen's comp benefits. As Senator McFarland pointed out, we are low, nationally, one of the lowest in the country, but we are also having to recognize the inequities of the situation not only between our state and other states in how they care for our disabled, injured workers. We need to think also about how this state has progressed in the last few years, how we have had some economic success in the last few years, how individuals have gained employment and all the good news that some people are trying to tell us about Nebraska. And this success story in Nebraska has been shared by most of the country and other Midwestern states and around the nation. Our economy has been healthy. Well, as we move forward and are pleased with the successes of our economy, we have to also talk about and remember our failures, and some of those failures have to do with those workers that cannot have a job, that are unable to find work, that are unable to, because of injury find employment, and those are the people we are talking about here with workmen's comp. These individuals, through no fault of their own, have been hurt, are sitting home and unable to find employment. Perhaps their injuries are so great that they are unable to work at anything, and at this point, our reimbursement for these individuals is so low that it is so embarrassing that even the World-Herald has come out, as we have seen with an editorial that has been distributed here, and the World-Herald editorial, in fact, is an excellent piece talking about the fact that we need to recognize those that are unemployed, and those that are injured, and try to increase our workmen's comp and unemployment comp benefits in this state. And I think talking about just a paltry \$10 increase is inadequate, if not inhumane,