

way, are accurate figures, but I would suggest to you that nearly all of these states base their payments upon the average weekly wage in the state, and this is the top payment, and then they pay a portion of that as a maximum that can be earned. So, in other words, if the average weekly wage was factored out to \$18,000 in the state, it is typical that two-thirds of that is earned as compensation for the injured party since that is, basically, what a person gets in take-home pay, and workers' compensation isn't taxed, that you would have a weekly payment rate on an \$18,000 salary of about \$250, no matter what state you were in, no matter what state you were in. Colorado figures their rate, and it keeps changing from year to year, on a basis of 80 percent of the average weekly wage. Iowa, which is a real exception in all of the 50 states, their top is 200 percent of the average weekly wage. Wyoming, 66-2/3; South Dakota, 100 percent; Missouri, 75 percent; Kansas, 75 percent, that is how they determine their cap. Now I would suggest to you that the \$265 contained in the committee amendment, while we don't have figures to come up with the exact current average weekly wage, if Nebraska were to use that system that is used in the other states, we would be replacing a figure somewhere between 75 and 80 percent of the average weekly wage. That would be our cap. What happens is that when you increase the premium, or increase the weekly payment,...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...as is indicated by Senator McFarland's amendment, then you bring, basically, two-thirds of the income for a higher paid group of people; 265 factors out to about \$20,800 annual salary. Our state average wage most recently available is between 17 and 18 thousand dollars. I don't know where 275 would put us, but it would put us probably above the take-home pay, which of the last average weekly wage rate in Nebraska was 327 gross, before deductions. So one of the factors, when you look at these peer comparisons, is to remember that our wage rates in Nebraska are a little different, that we are not going to increase the amount for the people who are being compensated at a lower weekly wage rate.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Those will not change. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, please, followed by