

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please, followed by Senator Chizek and Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I rise in support of Senator McFarland's amendment as well and I clearly recognize the arguments that Senator Coordsen makes. He has a very thankless job in trying to negotiate this type of legislation through the Business and Labor Committee, working both with labor folks on one side, and the business interests on the other. It is extremely difficult to find a happy medium, if you will, that both sides can agree to. There are good arguments on both sides. I think that the McFarland amendment, although it increases the committee amendments, which I am guessing were agreed to or worked out, is one that is very much needed. I have served in the same capacity as Senator Coordsen did, and I know that some of the things that the committee amendments deal with in terms of the deductibility break new ground and are very much needed in this area, but so is the initial \$10 that Senator McFarland would appropriate to this bill for those individuals who find themselves through, in virtually all cases, not every, but all cases virtually, no fault of their own injured, unable to provide for their families and dependent on workers' compensation to live. There is probably no one, as the examples that Senator Chizek just gave, that wants to be on workers' comp. What is involved in that formula? First of all, you have to be injured. Nobody in their right mind wants to have that happen to them. Second of all, they only get a percentage of their wages as if they had been at work on a full-time basis. Nobody, none of us here, wants to take a cut in pay for any reason, let alone if part of it has to be the fact that they were injured to accomplish that end. Granted, the argument could be made that, well, those individuals are doing nothing but yet they are being paid. Well, you know, that is also a cost of doing business. A cost of doing business is to provide a healthy, safe environment for those individuals whenever possible. In some cases some industries, if you look at those individuals who traditionally testify against this type of legislation, they are not folks that work in many of the most dangerous industries in business today, that being the building and trades. It is a tough job. It is tough. They do things that are very dangerous to themselves and to others in that employ, but yet they have to do it, it is necessary. Those jobs have to be done. It is important to our business, our industry, our economic