

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 787-88 of the Legislative Journal.) 21 ayes, 23 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the McFarland amendment to the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The amendment to the amendment fails. We're back on, what, the committee amendments?

CLERK: Mr. President, I have another amendment to the committee amendments. Mr. President, Senator Hall would move to amend the committee amendments. (Read Hall amendment as found on page 788 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The call is raised. Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. It is clear that a majority of the body does not want to increase the maximum benefit allowable outside of the committee amendment that would increase it by \$10. So what I have done is offered an amendment that would increase the minimum benefit that one would be able to receive in a workmen comp situation. The current language is 49. Forty-nine represents two-thirds of what someone is making in terms of their weekly wage, my rough mathematics means that they are making approximately \$75 a week in terms of benefits. All I do by amending it to 88, striking 49 and increasing it to \$88, is to bring that minimum up to two-thirds of a minimum wage job, over 40-hour week. So you take 3.35, you times it by 40 hours that are worked in that week, you come up with approximately \$88 as two-thirds of that wage that an individual would made on a gross basis over a week's work. I just raise that up there so that there is clearly an understanding that this is two-thirds of at least what currently is recognized in the State of Nebraska as the minimum wage rate. I would urge its adoption. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. May I introduce a guest of Senator Beck, please. Under the south balcony we have Esther Juzyk, who is the special guest of Senator Beck, and she's from Aurora, Nebraska. Ms. Juzyk, would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Coordsen, please, on the Hall amendment, followed by Senator Hefner and Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Hall, would you respond to a question, please?