

in 1990. It is unconscionable not to increase this floor to two-thirds of a minimum wage job. Look back on the history of worker's comp. Ladies and gentlemen, as Senator Nelson pointed out, it was the first tort reform ever enacted, and it was enacted because it was a pro-business enterprise. It exempted the huge recoveries that were taking place at that time for folks who were injured on the job, and labor agreed to it, labor said yes, because then we're guaranteed that these individuals who work for a living are at least going to be able to support their families, pay their bills until they are able to get back to work. It's a part-time, it's a temporary situation. And it also protects us so that we don't have these huge suits so we go out of business, and nobody is any better off because there are no jobs then at that point in time. It was a good move then, it's a good move now. But it also has to be at a point or level where these individuals can sustain themselves at what would be the state's minimum wage, two-thirds of that. That's all this amendment does, \$88 a week, because if that individual is hurt at a part-time job they are not hurt on a part-time basis. It is very likely, if not completely true, that they can't work at any other job as well. And you all know the benefits, the movement in the business world to part-time staffs, because benefits are derived, costs are reduced and in the case of the workmen's comp and the injured employee health care benefits are denied. This is really one of the chief reasons when we're looking at 20 and 30 percent increases in the cost of insurance for staffs that business has looked this direction. This amendment is a modest proposal after 17 years to basically bring us back up and not quite even there to the level at which we were in 1973, so that two-thirds of a minimum wage job is available to those individuals, whether they be part-time or full-time. Because there was no provisions at that time in 1973 on the part-time basis, period. It was \$49, and the state's minimum wage was \$1.50. Mr. President, I would urge the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You've heard the closing and the question is the adoption of the Hall amendment to the committee amendment to LB 313. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted?

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, could I ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Certainly, request for a call of the house.