

year, and then increase unemployment then the next year, according to what seems fair and reasonable at that time. That sounded fine to me. I said that's great. The next thing I find out happens is that some kind of discussion has occurred among the people on the Labor Committee and some of the interest groups involved in this legislation and I get an apology because I wasn't invited. And I say, well, I would have liked to have been invited, but I understand that maybe it was an oversight, so I didn't raise the issue. The next thing I heard was that neither bill was coming out of committee that year, that they were both going to stay in committee in '89. And, contrary to what I'd been told before, neither bill comes out. The next thing I heard was this year saying that both bills were going to be advanced out of committee. To my knowledge that may be happening. I'm not sure where the unemployment bill is. But they come out, and I'm not aware what the committee amendment does, or anything like that. And it gets to the floor and I'm told, here, it's your bill, but the agreement has been reached and the people on the committee reached it, so sign off on it, don't raise any concerns about it. It seems to me if I'm the sponsor of the bill I have a legitimate right to raise concerns about the bill, because it is unfair the way it's being implemented and the way it's being proposed. I'd like to read one comment from the World-Herald, and, gee, I think the editor makes a nice statement. He says here, and I'll just read it because it is so nicely phrased. He says, as low as the Nebraska payments are, some people don't want them to raise. And then he mentions the spokesperson for the Associated General Contractors says that the jobless benefit is too high. And he said it's difficult for employers to add another increase to a \$10 a week increase in each of the past two years. Then he says something, I think I find it very interesting, the editorial says, these modest increases were made, however, without raising employers contribution. The rate at which employers pay into the unemployment compensation is the same this year as it was in '87 and '88, and state officials projected in November that even without increasing the payments the fund would grow from 100 million to 107 million in 1989. That's with respect to unemployment. There is no additional increase necessary to fund that particular issue. Then of course it concludes, recent improvements in Nebraska's business climate have provided more jobs and opportunities for workers and injured workers and improving the benefits for unemployment and injured workers should be the next step. Totally agree with it. I think it reflects a nice view, a reasonable view. It talks about the