

\$290 being a fair rate, not excessive. Senator Hall proposed what I thought was fairly reasonable. In response to the point raised by the Chairman of the committee, he said, okay, if you're worried about the maximum amount and it's a two-third bene...two-third weekly...of the weekly benefit for all employees, what we should do is really, if the maximum is deemed to be sufficient or a minimal increase in the maximum is deemed to be sufficient, what about the employees who are earning minimum wages? What about the people who are in the lower edge of the spectrum? We have a minimum built in here, too, that minimum is \$49 per week, and it's been there since 1973, 17 years ago. It seems to me it's time for a change.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: The amendment by Senator Hall was perfectly reasonable, it should have been approved overwhelmingly. But yet because so many people are wedded to some kind of litmus test on these types of labor-employer issues, it doesn't seem to be any reasonable discussion on what's best for the people of our state. I don't know how to....I argue it in figures of dollars and cents, and compare it to other states and things like that. I think we make perfectly reasonable arguments. We have a fairly conservative newspaper saying, yeah, this is reasonable. I think it should be even more, but I go with what I think is reasonable enough to pass, to get 25 senator's support. And yet people turn their backs, don't listen, say, well I know where I stand on this issue, and this is how I'm going to vote, and don't confuse me with statistics or data or facts or anything, that is totally unfair and it was unfair to Senator Hall in consideration of his...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...particular bill, or particular amendment I should say. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey, on the motion to reconsider, followed by Senators Hefner and Ashford.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Mr. Speaker, members, I would support Senator McFarland in this effort. And I just want to quickly address two of the things that have been brought up, what Senator McFarland discussed. The compromise, if you will, if you want to call it a compromise, when you think of a compromise