

factor, that we wouldn't lose ground. I think the committee amendments are fair. They are comparable when you look at all of the other issues that are involved in workers' compensation and the McFarland amendment should be rejected at this time. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Additional discussion, Senator Hefner, followed by Senator McFarland.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment and I think that Senator Coordsen, Chairman of the Business and Labor Committee, expressed it very well. Senator McFarland, Nebraska has no limitation, no limitation on their workman's comp benefits, don't have no limitation on medical benefits or of time and this is a strong plus for the employees, and I think they should have it. I don't think there should be any limitations on it, but let's keep that weekly benefit reasonable. I wouldn't have supported to advance it out of committee if I knew that we were going to increase it more than \$10 a week, but I feel that the \$10 per week this year is fair. I feel that the \$10 next year is fair, and I want to be as open-minded and as fair about this as I can. If we don't pass this bill this year, they will go another year without any increase at all and I don't think that is fair. That is why I voted to advance this bill. Another thing we must remember, there is no social security tax on this, no social security tax, no federal income tax, no state income tax, and I just want to bring that to your attention. And while we're talking about Iowa here, Nebraska has a less average weekly wage than Iowa does. Again, I want to talk about the small businesses in the small rural communities. They are fighting for their existence. Another, if we increase this too much, that's going to increase the premiums that you pay for workman's comp and it's going to be another straw that will break the camel's back. So I would urge you to vote against this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, followed by Senator Chizek.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: I'd like to yield my time to Senator Chizek, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chizek, please.