

SENATOR CHIZEK: Well, I just gathered some figures yesterday after we had the discussion on the floor. I see the...from '87 to '88 the premiums went down, '87 from about 120 mill to '88 about 119.4 million. You have about the number of companies that would be writing, about 100,000 of comp would be about 123. The number of employees or employers carrying comp insurance is about 43,388; private self-insured, about 52 and public self-insured about 9. Now who benefits? Who benefits from the structure that we have set up today? You heard Senator Hefner get up and talk about the problems and the struggles of small business. I would agree and I would concur. He mentioned that there is no tax paid. When we talked yesterday we compared apples to apples. We compared the take-home pay from somebody that was working after tax to versus what they get with workmen's compensation. That's what we talked about yesterday, apples to apples, Senator, and if we're going to compare them, compare apples to apples and not apples to oranges. If it is so costly, maybe one of the things we should do is get rid of it. Maybe we should get rid of the entire workmen's comp system and just think of the money that would save them. The good companies would stay in business and we would have no problem at all. Those companies where there are problems and end up getting sued and probably go out of business. Senator Hefner, fair is fair and we are not being fair. Two years without an increase. This will probably be the third, according to Senator Hefner, three years without an increase. I think maybe we should take a long, hard look at the entire system if that is the attitude that we're going to have in the State of Nebraska towards the working men and women. If we're not going to be fair, then let's do away with it. Why play games? Why play a facade? And I don't represent labor and I don't represent a company. I'm talking about people that work in my district, whether they're in management, whether they're in a union and it is interesting how we work it around to management-union confrontation. I happen to be in management. A number of years ago I was in labor, but one thing, Senator Hefner, I can say is I'm not on one side or the other, I'm fair and I think we should be. I urge your support for Senator McFarland's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, additional discussion, followed by Senators McFarland and Morrissey.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Only to...thank you, Mr. Speaker, only to add just a little bit to what I said before, and that is that the body is aware, I think, that when the weekly benefits are