

business community in Nebraska that is thriving now were generous enough to give them this \$10 increase. I think they won't even realize it and I think we'd better remind them with a separate check, but since I don't want to take a lot of time on something that really isn't much, I won't offer that at this time unless you all come flocking over here and request me to and then I'll take it up there.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion on the advancement of the bill? Any closing, Senator McFarland?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yes, thank you. I share Senator Morrissey's frustration and anger. I share Senator Chizek's anger and frustration. I thought about this overnight. I had a motion to kill the bill up. I was thinking of moving to kill the bill and just lay it over so that the bill wouldn't be heard again this session, very tempted to do that. It would give me a degree of satisfaction to do it because it seemed to me that the working people of our state are not being represented well here in the Legislature or within the people who are associated with the Legislature and follow these processes. This bill, in its present form, should be an embarrassment to the Legislature and the people of our state. This bill, if passed, puts us last, dead last in the amount of benefits we allow as a maximum weekly benefit under the workers' compensation laws. We are not that poor a state. We are not a rich state. I don't want to make us number one in the nation in workers' comp benefits, but we are now forty-third in rank in the amount of weekly compensation benefits we make. I suspect that within the next couple years we will achieve a rank of forty-fourth, forty-fifth, forty-sixth because of this limited increase and the fact that there was no increase at all last year. We are competing with states like Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, states whose per capita income is substantially below Nebraska's per capita income. As I recall, I think we're in the mid-range of states as far as per capita income in Nebraska. We are not a wealthy state, we are not a poor state. It seems to me, if we look at per capita income, that we could at least be in the middle range as far as what we pay in workers' comp benefits, what we pay in unemployment benefits, what we pay in other types of social programs, but yet in this particular area, in workers' comp, we are ranked forty-third and going down. The make-up of the Labor Committee should not control this body. The fact that there are some antilabor people, blatantly antilabor people on that committee should not control the will of this body. We are