

and this amendment is that this amendment would do the same thing over one year rather than over the two years. I would urge the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Discussion on the amendment offered by Senator Lindsay, Senator Labedz. Senator Labedz, any discussion on the amendment? Thank you. Senator Hefner, Senator Coordsen to follow.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment. The committee took testimony and we advanced the bill out with the committee amendment. The committee amendment I believe calls for an \$8 increase the first year and another \$8 a year the second year. And Senator Lindsay wants it all at once and I just feel that is too much. This expense is paid for by the employer entirely so it is a cost of doing business. It's just that plain and simple. Like I've said on the workmen's comp bill, the small businessman is struggling to keep his doors open and this would just be another cost of doing business, so I would urge you, at this time, to reject this amendment and go along with the committee amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this is an amendment that is quite a lot different than the original amendment that was filed on the committee amendments. As Senator Lindsay indicated, I have prepared, it's here in my hand, seeing what happens on the floor of this body, an amendment that could do the same thing, but perhaps do a little bit better job of protecting the trust fund for the employees and that rather than being \$20 all at once, it would phase in \$10 and then \$10. There is a decision that this body has to make as to how they want or if they want to adjust the unemployment in the State of Nebraska. We may hear from time to time over the next few minutes about the position that Nebraska is in when compared to other states. And the comments will probably compare pure weekly benefits to pure weekly benefits alone without taking into consideration the base on which the benefits are figured. Currently in Nebraska we pay a maximum of \$134 a week based upon a \$3,250 high quarter earnings, \$3,250 or more earnings in the high quarter will entitle you to \$134 a week. If you make, in a quarter, \$3,250 or less, Nebraska is one of the most beneficial states in the Union. For the lower income people we pay a weekly benefit rate, and while I have not