

February 27, 1990

LB 315, 974, 1016, 1017, 1070, 1076, 1098
1118

ran all 50 states, we're in probably the top ten of all of the states. The difference in Nebraska is in how high we go. We're good on the low end, we treat people extremely well by comparison. Whether we would increase by \$8, which are the committee amendments, whether we would increase by \$10 a week in each of the next two years, which is my amendment, or whether we would increase by \$20, as Senator Lindsay would have us do, Nebraska, for those covered wage earners, is still going to pay among the highest benefits for those people that are covered up to the extent of their wages of any state in the Union.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: We have \$127 million, or thereabouts, in the Unemployment Trust Fund. That belongs to the workers of the State of Nebraska and that is paid out in recessionary times. I think it is incumbent upon us to be sure that we protect those benefits for use when they really need it. If we increase too fast, if we increase too high, we do put, if we have another major recession and we will, those benefits in jeopardy.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and I do sign LB 1017, LB 1016, LB 974, LB 1070, LB 1076, LB 1098 and LB 1118. The Chair recognizes Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I would just like to remind you, first I rise in support of Senator Lindsay's amendment. I would like to remind you exactly what unemployment does and this is taken out of the unemployment, Highlights of State Unemployment Compensation Laws that the department gave us in the Business and Labor Committee and I believe you all got a copy of it. In the overview it says, unemployment compensation has also served the business community by getting money into circulation at the outset of a local or national economic turndown, downturn, thus, helping the slowdown recessionary pressures. And while we're not in a recession right now, this also applies...it also applies to businesses in regular economic times because these people on unemployment do not pad their savings account, they do not buy a new car, they do not drive to Nebraska Furniture Mart to get a new washer-drier, they spend their money on the basics. Again, just think, think back to when you were on unemployment and what it is you do with that money. So the cost to businesses, there is a cost, there is an increased cost, but the businesses, the