

employees laid off and find there was no money left in the trust fund. As I indicated a few minutes ago, Nebraska pays up to the limits that we have in law for the lower income, lower waged employee, about 55 percent of their gross salary. Nearly all of the other states have a target of 50 percent or less of a person's gross salary as unemployment to tide someone over until they get another job. There is a provision in federal law that states who suffer a major recession and exhaust their unemployment trust fund can borrow money from the federal government through the Department of Labor. The State of Nebraska cannot do this. If we have a major recession, if our Unemployment Trust Fund is exhausted, we have only two choices, not to pay unemployment or for the Legislature to come into special session and appropriate funds in the middle of a recession to do that. We can avoid that by being perhaps more modest than some would want us to be in our weekly benefits, but being aware of our responsibilities. I would suggest that perhaps the...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...more orderly approach might be to defeat the Lindsay amendment and upon that I would introduce the amendment that would not only have the days right, Senator Lindsay, the dates right, but (laugh), couldn't resist that. You guys beat up on me all morning. But would provide for a phase in of the same amount of money that would be the dates of January 1, '91, January 1, '92. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall, on the amendment to the amendment, followed by Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I rise in support of Senator Lindsay's amendment to the committee amendments. I brought this bill in, or a bill similar to it in 1985 and in 1985 at that time the Speaker was chairing the Business and Labor Committee and I sat on that committee, and if I remember correctly, the Unemployment Fund balance, Unemployment Trust Fund balance was \$75 million and as Senator Coordsen stated earlier, I think the trust fund is at, I think he said 125, \$127 million today, six years later. As Senator Korshoj stated, we have gone through a recession and as Senator Coordsen stated, we'll go through another one, but the fact of the matter is benefits have not kept up with Consumer Price Index in the handouts that Senator Lindsay has shown you and yet