

sometimes to have the World-Herald support increasing the unemployment compensation or the worker's compensation, at least I can't recall them ever doing that. And every word that they have said in a long two-column editorial is very good, but I would like to at least read part of it. The most an unemployed worker can receive currently is 134 per week. Not everyone who qualifies for unemployment benefits receive the maximum, however, the amount depends on the person's earnings in the previous three months. Some unemployed people receive as little as \$20 a week. The payments which are financed from employers' contributions stop after 26 weeks. LB 316 (sic) would boost the minimum of \$25 and the maximum of \$168 a week. Those are not excessive amounts for a person who must provide food and shelter for a family while looking for another job. Then it goes on a couple paragraphs asking or saying that it is also right to raise the workers' comp or a job related disability and, of course, we've had that here before. The last paragraph is interesting. It says, recent improvements in Nebraska's business climate have provided more jobs and opportunities for workers, improving the benefits for unemployed and injured workers should be the next step. And I am so pleased to see that the committee amendment received as many yes votes as it did because evidently we agree with this statement and I strongly believe that we should do this and possibly even more, but I will be happy to see LB 315 advance to Select File as amended. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall. Amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner would move to amend. Senator, 2508, AM2508.

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes. Mr. President and members of the body, I will now offer this amendment to the bill. This is the same amendment that I offered to the committee amendment and the Speaker ruled that it was not germane. But what this amendment would do would disqualify from insurance benefit those employees that were dismissed for illegal drug use. Like I said before, unemployment compensation benefits are for an employee when he loses his job through no fault of his own. I believe that when a person is dismissed for illegal drug use, that he could have prevented that and so I offer this amendment. This amendment is the same as LB 1173 which Senator Coordsen and I introduced before the Labor Committee. It was advanced out of the