

SENATOR COORDSEN: Okay, as far as my amendment goes, we have not had a ruling on that amendment. My assumption is since it is not out of the Unemployment Trust Fund, which is very strictly defined as to how it can be used, that this is not an unemployment payment, but a payment that is the same as the unemployment figure. You know, if you're entitled to \$80 a week if you were laid off under normal circumstances, you would be able to, out of this fund, collect that same amount as a separate payment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey, followed by Senators Chizek, Nelson and Coordsen.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I rise in opposition to Senator Hefner's amendment. One of the problems we had when we were discussing the various amendments Senator Hefner had to this bill, was making a connection that federal law requires. Federal law requires it must be a nexus to the disqualification and activities at work and, to me that means on the job. Otherwise you couldn't disqualify folks for that, and I'd like to ask a question of Senator Hefner.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: The last part of your amendment, the new language there says, when such use or possession is either upon the work site, that's clear to me, or affects the employment relationship, that is very, very unclear to me. Can you describe how that more narrowly defines our problem here and how that clearly states a nexus between a drug violation and the work site?

SENATOR HEFNER: Well, I would say, say, for instance, this employee was driving a truck and if that employer noticed there was something different about this particular employee, well, yes, I'm sure that he'd want him tested for alcohol or drugs.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: And I agree there. He is driving a truck, he is on the job. We could have a situation where an employee is off the job, he is at a house that gets raided for drugs, his name gets in the paper, possibly before any charges are filed, and the employer says that's bad for business, that's bad for our business. Because it affects our employment relationship, I am going to disqualify you, I'm going to fire you and you will