

previous amendment, this is slightly different, and I am hopeful that some of the people who were excused or absent the first time would be able to vote and vote this amendment on. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. For purposes of discussion, Senators Hefner and Coordsen. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment. This amendment is about the same that we discussed on first stage of debate, and that is increasing it to 265. I feel that the way the bill is now, it is a fair, fair increase, and, as I understand it, this increase was negotiated, negotiated by labor and by business and industry. But we must remember that workmen's comp is a cost of doing business and I just got a letter this morning from one businessman. He said my worker's comp insurance premium increased 34 percent from last year, and so he doesn't want me to support any increase. But I am willing to go along with a \$10 increase this coming year, and \$10 next year, and if we feather that in, then we probably can absorb the cost. Senator McFarland, I wish that you would come up to some of the towns in the 19th District and just see how many closed business places there are. And not only that, there is a lot of them just hanging on by a thread, and if we keep increasing the cost of doing business, we will see that there will be a lot less businesses on main street. It is just that simple. Now maybe you don't have that problem in Lincoln, I don't know, but I have heard that you have a little problem down here, too, because it looks to me like your downtown Lincoln is deteriorating pretty fast. So I think that we need to look at that, too. But I don't feel that right at this time small business can increase this too much. The expenses cannot be increased too much or they are just going to have to lock their doors, and this is just another cost to doing business. So I would urge that you'd vote against this.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen, followed by Senator McFarland.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body. As the amendments on worker's compensation and a lot of the information that has been presented have flowed both on General File and now, again, on Select File, in many ways by only using the maximum weekly benefit, it's a little bit like the old story of comparing apples and oranges. That is only