

exorbitant increases. So I would urge your not adopting this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, with Senator Morrissey to follow.

SENATOR McFARLAND: I will pass and I will just close when I get a chance.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey, please.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I would have to, looking at one of Senator McFarland's handouts, the original bill asks for a worker's comp increase from 245 to 290, so I would have to agree with what Senator Hefner just said, that this figure that we have now has been negotiated. He said it was negotiated by business and industry and I completely agree. Business and industry negotiated that figure. I am not going to go on and on, I made my point the first time around. I think it is fair. I think it is just. And I am just wondering if any of you heard from anyone in your district, if anyone got any response to the debate the first time around. I support Senator McFarland's amendment. I don't think it is outrageous. It is far from outrageous and it is a compromise that can be reached inside the glass, in here on the floor. It is something that the injured workers are deserving of and I would just simply ask you to give them a thought and support this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any other discussion? Apparently not. Senator McFarland, to close.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. I will just make a couple of comments. There are some businesses who have trouble in Lincoln. They do in northeast Nebraska. They do all across our state. And I suspect even if we lowered the worker's compensation rate even to \$200 per week, those businesses are still going to have problems, just because of the economy in the particular business they are in, or the particular changes that have occurred in the products they may be selling or manufacturing or producing. This minimal increase in worker's comp benefits I don't believe will have much of an effect one way or another on the cost of operating business. It will have an effect, however, in helping an injured employee who may be injured through no fault of his own or her own get a better