

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Senator Ashford, would you care to speak to the substitute motion?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I think for the first time in living memory Senator Bernard-Stevens has made something simpler rather than more complex. I think that he is...I agree with Senator Morrissey and I agree with Senator Bernard-Stevens that this is the right thing to do. We...I understand what we were trying to do with...certainly with Senator Coordsen's amendments to Senator Hefner's amendments, and I think he made a good effort at accomplishing it, but we got ourselves into a real bind. I don't think there is much of a question that the increase is absolutely, unequivocally justified. I was going to get up and talk a little bit about my amendment to the amendment, but that obviously is not necessary now that Senator Bernard-Stevens has made his motion. So I would second what Senator Morrissey said and urge the advance...or the adoption of Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment and the...and urge that we move the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, further discussion?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise in opposition to the Bernard-Stevens amendment. We have spent many hours on the floor of this body hammering out and voting on the issues that are currently contained in 315. It has been amazing to me, of course a lot of things in this body I guess amaze me, and with this particular issue I'm never going to be a payer, nor am I going to be a collector, pending some unforeseen circumstances, so I guess I have somewhat of a dispassionate view. I doubt that any of you have received letters from the payers clamoring for increases in unemployment. I would say probably the business community is opposed to increases in unemployment because, quite frankly, they are the people that pay. Those that receive certainly are in favor, and understandably so, of any increases. I think that LB 315, in its current form, is a very, very reasonable compromise. I would urge the defeat of this amendment, and, with its defeat, any subsequent amendments; and I would hope they would be withdrawn so that we could vote on this issue and have what I still believe to be a reasonable bill with all of its amendments in place. I've seen people on this floor be willing to cut off their nose to spite their face because of personal philosophies