

CLERK: Mr. Speaker, 846 was introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 31, referred to Appropriations, advanced to General File. I do have Appropriations Committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER BAACK: On the committee amendments, Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker, the committee amendments here simply...I will talk about the bill but the committee amendments simply correct an error in the Governor's bill to put the correct rates in. So I just ask for the adoption of the committee amendments and I will explain the bill after that.

SPEAKER BAACK: Any discussion on the committee amendments? We will now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the committee amendments. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Moore, on LB 846.

SENATOR MOORE: LB 846 is the employee health insurance bill. The actual dollar increases would be...for the committee is about \$5.6 million in the first year and \$12.5 million in the next year. If you turn to page 22 of your budget booklet, you will see...the booklet, you will see the narrative on this. One of the major things contained in the bargaining...actually, these are...these are living up to our bargaining agreements on health insurance. One of the major changes in the bargaining agreements is that the state went away from the first dollar coverage to a \$250 annual deductible payment which I think is...I would like to at this time compliment...for myself, compliment the state employees as well as the Department of Personnel for working towards a more reasonable method of health insurance and compliment both sides for that. The actual rate increases are 16.9 percent in '91-92 and 16.2 percent in '92-93. Health insurance costs at the University of Nebraska also increased approximately 18 percent each year. And the state college system actually has even a higher increase at 27 percent cost, annual health insurance cost for '91-92 and 13.7 in '92-93. And those are the percentage amounts. Obviously, the