

January 17, 1992 LB 411

don't think this is fair. If we would raise it from 5.4 to 5.9, then the negative account employers would be helping restore some of this fund. I think that if we can get this higher, I think some of these contractors will manage their labor force a little bit better. I'm in the dehy alfalfa business and we're a seasonal employee. But you know what happened when the negative account employers' rates went up? Our manager saw to it that he managed our labor force a little bit better because he didn't want to pay this high rate. So I would urge you to support the committee amendment. I have been told by some contractors, they said, well, we...we tell the employee when we hire them that they will be getting so many dollars per week when the weather gets cold and we can't do outside work. Well, that's all right, but, I, as a positive account employer, don't believe that we should be subsidizing these contractors that much. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Does anyone else wish to speak to the committee amendments? Seeing none, I will recognize Senator Coordsen for closing.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Only to encourage the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. We'll now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the committee amendments to LB 411? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. I will recognize Senator Hefner for opening on the bill itself.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, the committee amendment becomes the bill. What this does is raises the unemployment rate from 5.4 percent to 5.9 percent, effective a year from now, January 1, 1993, and then it would raise it from 5.9 to 6.4 percent January 1, 1994. I believe that this is a reasonable increase. I don't believe it would cause a hardship to anybody, to any negative account employer. The first year, starting January 1, 1993, it would raise the employer's cost to \$35 per employee per year. In the second year, it would raise it \$70. I think that's a reasonable increase for the amount of benefits that they receive from this.