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I realize that it's not going to raise that unemployment fund too much. I don't know exactly how much, it would be less than \$1 million dollars the first year and perhaps less than \$2 million the second year, but at least it would help somewhat. And so I would urge you to vote for the advancement of this bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Madam Chairman and colleagues, I rise to oppose Senator Hefner's bill, like...it amazes me at a time when we're dealing with a tax crisis all across this state that Senator Hefner comes in with a bill selectively increasing the taxes for a number of employers, a number of employers who have a difficult time because of the inclement weather that we deal with in Nebraska. God help us with this kind of an attitude. The fund was designed to deal with this kind of a problem and I know about the deficit account employers, Senator. I created it and it's where it should be. I created it when I was the Commissioner of Labor in this state and it's where it should be. Thank you, Senator Chambers, you recognized it before other people. He said, yes, Lord. (Laughter.) I think you're taking an industry who is having some difficult times anyway, small contractors building homes and you will say, well, they're building, the interest rate is down. They're not going to build with the interest rates down because they don't know how stable their job is. What kind of a message does this send, Senator Hefner? As we talk to people to try and bring them into the state, how many times has the representatives from NACI in the Chambers told us these kind of things, no matter how minimal they are, send the wrong message. And I agree with them in this case. I think this sends the wrong message to the employers in this state and those who may come into the state and I oppose vigorously this legislation.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chizek. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes. Thank Senator Chizek for his remarks, and I will be very brief. I gave I think the substance of my opposition to the bill in remarks on the committee amendments. This is a bill that is punitive in nature to specific industries. It does not create a tax source that will be of any benefit to the positive balance employers that are out there. I think one thing that maybe has not been adequately described about our current system and how it operates, there is a