

January 24, 1992 LB 411

brought about by a half percent increase over the next two years. That's a factor. It amounts to...what would it be, I believe, \$35 a year. But the other factor is that each time we increase the unemployment rate for negative balance employers, there's a maximum rate...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...paid, then we put those employers in a less competitive position with...with employers who are coming in bidding on jobs in Nebraska. So, with that in mind, I had prepared an amendment to change the method of bringing in new employers into the Nebraska rate. We don't have it quite ready. We had it drafted and it didn't turn out the way it needed. So I would encourage you this morning, if you would, to move this bill over onto Select File and, hopefully, we'll have an amendment to address that particular problem at that time. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Haberman, you're next.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Hefner, would you answer some questions and have a dialogue with me?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hefner, would you respond, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Certainly.

SENATOR HABERMAN: As I understand it, there's \$139 million surplus in the fund. Is that correct?

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Haberman, this isn't a surplus. This is in the fund, yes.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you. There's \$130 million in the fund, right?

SENATOR HEFNER: One hundred and thirty-nine million.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Okay now...and you still want to increase the payments, is that correct?

SENATOR HEFNER: I want to increase the contribution rate of the