

SENATOR COORDSEN: Yeah, the balance...and there's nothing absolutely certain, the federal guidelines only indicate the two previous recessions, the most recent and then the most severe in the past 20 years. Those would indicate, based upon our current wage rates in Nebraska, a comfortable balance would be \$180 million in the case of the most recent recession, '83-'84, and about \$215 million to cover all of the payouts back in, what was it, '78-'79, something like that. So, yes, we have a good balance; no, it's not an excessive balance.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yeah, okay, thank you. But we do have...we do have a pretty good balance for today unless we really, you know, everything falls off the table. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Hefner. Senator Haberman. Anyone else wishing to discuss the advancement of LB 411? Seeing no one, Senator Hefner, do you wish to close?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I will try to clarify a few things in my closing here. Yes, there is approximately \$140 million in the fund at the present time. Personally, I think that's pretty good, but the Department of Labor tells us that it isn't. And so that's why they increased the reserve ratio that was effective just January 1, 1992. And that will, hopefully, raise this fund up to 175, 180 million dollars. But only the positive account employers will participate in that increase. The negative account employers won't because they're up to their maximum and that's why I want to raise their maximum up just a little bit, a half a percent starting January 1, 1993, and another half a percent starting January 1, 1994. And I'm giving them a long time. Will it hurt the contractors who are most of the negative account employers? I don't believe it will be. I don't believe it will because it will only cost them \$35 per employee per year the first year and \$70 per employee per year the second year. I also have been...I also have been made aware that we do have a problem with the agriculture seasonal workers and I hope to meet with them between now and the time that it comes...that this bill comes up on Select File. So I hope that you will vote to advance this bill and then we'll address some of those other problems on Select File. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. You've heard Senator