

should say, with the work comp court. The bills tend to go to collection agencies that start to call the injured worker and she gets put through a lot of hassle because the insurance company doesn't want to timely make the medical payments, and the reason for that is there is no penalty provision. An insurance company can delay, and delay, and delay, making the payments for medical without worrying about incurring any problems with the work comp court. What the amendment would do is to include medical payments within the penalty provisions of the work comp statutes. It would allow discretion with the work comp court, and I repeat that, it would allow the work comp court to make that decision, that if the medical payments are not being made in a timely basis and the court finds that there is no reasonable cause, or that the insurance company is simply delaying, or whatever, then the court can impose the penalties and attorneys fees as required by the act. The...what it does is give some incentive or I should say takes away any incentive for the insurance company to delay payments which, in effect, just allows an insurance company to hang onto the money for claims which have no justifiable reason for not being paid. I think it takes away that, you can all imagine what it's like getting calls from a collection agency when you don't have the money to make payments for your hospital bills, you can imagine what it's like going back into the doctor who hasn't been paid through no fault of your own and each time you go in the doctor or nurse asks you what about this past due bill. What this would do is allow some, would allow the court some leverage in getting these things paid without having to require the attorney for the injured worker or the injured worker, if the worker cannot afford an attorney, to keep coming back into court and requiring that there be an order that those be paid. With that I would try to answer any questions and I urge adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Well, I'll explain it. Senator Lindsay, we are going to take up Senator Coordsen's amendment first. There was some shuffling of the amendments here and Senator Coordsen's should have preceded yours, so we're going to take Senator Coordsen's amendment first. Senator Coordsen. (See AM3382 as found on Journal page 1313.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, if you recall from the General File discussion on this, that 360 at that point in time was a matter of basically I had asked for your confidence in advancing it to Select File to finish up the