

It's unusual, I guess, for a...if I'm introducing an amendment to be on the fence on it. But, like I say, it came up a little bit quicker than I thought. I will also be listening, I guess, to the debate as it goes along to see which direction we should go. But, with that, I would urge, I guess, your consideration of the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I would rise to oppose the amendment and as well as to oppose the draft that is coming down, if it has the same direction. But I do so for a number of reasons. One is that we all know, as the conversations have been on several times for several weeks and as a matter of fact for several years, about the CIR and it is one of the areas when people talk about mandates that is what some people are thinking of. The history of the Commission of Industrial Relations Nebraska has a long history. The option, it always is pointed out, is the other option strikes, which is what some states have and that certainly is far more disastrous in terms of upsetting the offering of services to local, the local people. But I don't think you need this either because with the lid, you know, you can go to the CIR appeal and have a rate that you couldn't pay, but I believe the only thing would happen would be reduction of number of employees and that in itself is going to be a deterrent in many respects to do something that is unnecessary or undesirable in terms of exceedingly high wage increases. Everybody knows, that has been dealing with this issue, that I assume there is an assumption, back at the Rotunda, that this is an opportunity to strike with something that they would like to do because of the situation and I would urge you not to fall to that. Labor-management relationships with government in Nebraska needs far more consideration than a last minute amendment on Select File, in the next to the end of the session. What it needs is careful study. And perhaps there are some solutions that are appropriate, but this is not the appropriate solution. It is wrong to use the desire to restrict the cost of government, it is wrong to use that as an excuse to try to make a major change in this policy, the last minute, when it needs far more time to do it. I can recall, because I carried the legislation along with others, when state employees, when we established the