

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of Senator Kristensen's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Kristensen amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Jensen would move to amend the bill. (AM4387 is found on page 1853 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Jensen to open on his amendment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Madam President, members of the body, sorry for all of this confusion but in the Lindsay amendment that didn't come down in time is now down and I would like you to, it is being passed out right now, I would like you to take a look at the language. It really is not all that onerous, if you will just follow along with me. In Section 12 it says, the Commission of Industrial Relations shall establish rates of pay and conditions of employment according to the requirements of Section 48-818 and the establishment wage rates for employees of a city or village, the commission shall take into consideration the limits of Section 2 of this act. Now the reason this is so important is because of the major cities in the state. Omaha, their budget of 1996 was a total of \$285 million. Of that, \$114 million was in salaries, \$36 million was in fringes, for a total of \$150 million. That is 52.9 percent of their total budget is in wages alone. And a...excuse me, that is really 58 percent, and in Lincoln, their budget is 60 to 70 percent in wages alone. Now you can certainly understand that with a cap if...or if the negotiations broke down and they went to CRA (sic) and there was a large award that was given out, if they were unable to negotiate, why the city would have no choice. They have a cap on them, they couldn't go up and so they are in a Catch-22. So I think this is really something that should be done, and all it says is they shall take into consideration the limitation of this section. I don't think that is anything more than a reasonable request. I would like to have you take a look at that. If you have any questions, why, I would be glad to answer them. Thank you, Madam President.