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Iam (phonetic) v. Crawford & Company, an individual was injured. There was a massive delay in paying him. While he wasn't paid he developed a new condition which was called reflective sympathetic disorder and he had a whole new set of problems, so he sued for bad faith by the company because they were so slow. The court said that there's only one remedy for any kind of workers' compensation claim, and that's to go to the court. And they said that the exclusive remedy by the Legislature was given to the court and only to the court; that there was one kind of penalty that could be exacted in this situation and that's for the courts to order that there be attorney's fees charged against the case. And here's what the court said: We acknowledge that the limited penalty, i.e., attorney's fees, for unpaid medical benefits provides little deterrence to the bad faith handling of claims by worker compensation insurers. It is the providence of the Legislature and not this court to strength the deterrent effect of administrative penalties within the act as public policy may dictate. That says that the workers' compensation field is for the court and if we want to strengthen administrative penalties it's for the court. I don't mind that the insurance companies want to have an Attorney General's Opinion, but in fact the Supreme Court has spoken. This is the way to lift those administrative responsibilities to a level that can be a deterrent and to give workers' compensation cases the same kind of protection from bad faith behaviors by insurers or self-insurers that you'd have in any other kind of insurance policy. I would ask for the adoption of these amendments. There's also a minor amendment to follow this on the effective date of the changes, and then I'd ask for the advancement of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Landis. For discussion on the Landis amendment to LB 331, Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Thank you, Mr. President. As Senator Landis said, I did ask for an Attorney General Opinion on this matter because I'm not going to hold myself out to be a great constitutional scholar or anything like that, but I did make the...make the effort to look at the Constitution of state of Nebraska, and the Workers' Compensation Court is a branch of the judicial branch under the Constitution of the state of Nebraska and, as such, it was created by statute by this Legislature.