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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, to open on FA1457 to the Louden amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members. The gist of my amendment would be that it would actually be added into the same place as the Louden amendment on Social Security, but it would refer to compensation related to military service in an international conflict or national emergency. And I think it's a legitimate and important issue to talk about. I don't happen to have all the facts and figures right at my fingertips, but I know that we are not compensating our military in a manner in which we should, and I know that some of them are having difficulties making ends meet. And I'm thinking that we're not talking much military pay here, but it shouldn't be deducted from their unemployment insurance. And I would welcome discussion on this. But I think if we're going to look at those people who are getting Social Security benefits, we also ought to be able...we also have an obligation, I think, to look at those who have been in military service for our country. With that, Mr. President, I would be glad to take any questions that people might have on this.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the opening on FA1457, which is an amendment to the Louden amendment, AM2291, to LB 1049. Open for discussion on that amendment. Senator Cunningham, followed by Senators Brown, Beutler, Smith, Bourne, Janssen, and Chambers. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I haven't had a chance to really study this amendment at this point. But I would tell you, when we were going through the process for this bill, we decided to keep it very simple. We knew it would be controversial with some people. I personally would have liked the bill to have gone a lot further than it goes now. But we decided all we were going to do in the bill is change the 7 to 10 weeks to 13 weeks, and try to keep it simple, very simple. And now you can see, we're getting all kinds of amendments that change this little thing and that little thing.