

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 10, 2004 LB 1049

having this bill. All right, if we want to do this, then on Select File we'll go through the weekly compensation, one dollar at a time, until we're up in the middle of where all the other states are. You can't look at one part of a system; it's a whole. And the problem here is that we're forgetting history, we're forgetting the balancing. We just have one group that wants to come in and do something to a part of the system, because they don't like that part. And if you looked at it just all by itself, you would say, yeah, that doesn't look too great. But if you look at the system as a whole, and these lousy payments that we make in Nebraska to people, then maybe the system as a whole seems a little more in balance, and maybe the people that want to do this should remember that it's not only employers that are having a hard time now, but it's people who don't have jobs. Oh, we hear about the recovery, day in and day out now. The recovery is here; the recession is over; we're back on our wheels. But where are the jobs, all the analysts say? Where are the jobs? They're not here yet. And maybe we ought to be a little sensitive to that, in this day and age.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just maybe. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Louden, on the Schimek amendment to your amendment.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes. Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. I guess I would like to outline some of the thinking...my thinking on the amendment of Senator Schimek's, and the amendment that I've presented here. Senator Schimek's amendment is probably, if she's looked into it thoroughly, would be taken care of in...for the veterans that have been overseas, as she has, I think, called it, international conflicts. And I don't know if it's already covered in part of it, because it goes on to say in the statutes we already have some other compensations deemed by Congress. So there may be something that already has that covered. The other part on the amendment that I've put forth is the fact that this is...these are people that aren't getting a large Social Security check. If they were getting a large Social Security check, or a sufficient one,