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FLOOR DEBATE

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different levels. But six months, and then you have people that just quit for no good reason, or are able to quit for no good reason, and you have to pay unemployment insurance to cover them. And yet at the same time, you have to hire someone else in to take their place, and then spend another six months training that person. We're not talking about people that get laid off because of...you know, the business drops and you don't have enough work for them. They're going to collect, and they need to collect, and they need to be protected. We need to do everything we can to protect those people and help them in time of need while they're looking for another job. But we are just talking about here, are people who quit. All they do is quit. And you know, I'm willing to answer questions if anybody has any. I guess philosophically I just can't see the problem with this. But with that, I'll waive the rest of my time to the Chair, and I'll be available for questions. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Education Committee will hold an Executive Session underneath the north balcony at 1:50; Education, 1:50, north balcony.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Bourne, on the Beutler amendment to LB 1049.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in, I guess in support of Senator Beutler's amendment, in that it makes a bad bill better. No offense, Senator Cunningham. But again, just to bring everybody up to speed, this is the bill that we had had some extensive discussions on General File. And the status of the law now is, if someone is fired for misconduct or leaves a job without cause, they have to wait, depending on how significant the misconduct is, anywhere from 7 to 10 weeks to qualify for unemployment insurance, and then the maximum amount they can get, the maximum benefit time period they can get unemployment benefits is 26 weeks. But it is reduced by the waiting period. And Senator Cunningham is nodding, so that's...I guess he agrees with that. My contention is, again, that unemployment insurance is like a safety net. It is designed to keep people off Medicaid, off of food stamps, off of