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FLOOR DEBATE

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there are people that would do that. They could fire you, report that you were...you came in to late work twice. I could have been a stellar employee, but the employer could say that I was a bad employee, I was fired for misconduct, I was late a couple of times, didn't come back from lunch right at 1:00, and I am fired for misconduct. There's no negotiating. I'd have to wait 13 weeks. Thirty-eight percent of those unemployed have lost telephone service. More than one-third have had trouble paying gas or electric bills. And I told you about my constituent who was threatened with shutoff notices for both gas and electricity. That's not unusual. Forty-seven percent of individuals that are unemployed do not have health insurance. I would assume the only reason that those...the other, the 50-some percent that do have health insurance is because they have a spouse. Thank goodness for that. Imagine having to go without health insurance, or having...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...to move in with a relative because you couldn't afford to live.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne and Senator Aguilar. Senator Preister, Beutler amendment.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, members of the body. I want to make a couple of comments, and then I would yield the remaining time, if he wants it, to Senator "Circle Your Wagons and Dive Under Them" Bourne. The issue that is before us begs the larger issue, and that is, what is happening with the Unemployment Trust Fund? And certainly Senator Beutler brought some attention with the one handout that he provided us on that. The fund is currently at its lowest level in years. It's at \$85 million. The \$4 million that Senator Cunningham's bill would purport to save, if the figures are to be believed and if all factors equate out to make that happen, would equal one week, one week's worth of benefits. So we would save one week. But we're really not saving the program. That's the bigger picture. That's where we really need to be focusing. And we're kind of taking a little bite on the end and taking that essentially out of the check of the worker, who may, may be