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March 17, 2005 LB 739

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: No, I'm sorry. We have to get the Unemployment Trust Fund solvent before you do much of anything, Senator, and right now it's in danger of going broke, so there may not be benefits there to pay, or money there to pay benefits...I'm sorry.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Cunningham, there is always more than one way to skin a cat, when we're talking about putting money into a fund. Isn't that true?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, that's probably correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And two ways that can be done, without requiring a lot of esoteric reasoning or discussion, is to reduce the benefits that workers receive or up the amount that employers pay into the fund. We can do it either of those ways alone or a combination of those two. Isn't that true?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: That's true.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This approach that is being taken by this bill would place the greater onus...

SENATOR SCHIMEK PRESIDING

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...on the worker. Isn't that true?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: That is totally untrue.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, if you go from 7 weeks to 13 weeks as a period of disqualification, that's almost a 50 percent increase in the period of disqualification, isn't it?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: That's just in this section of the bill, Senator. There's others...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But let me...let's take the section that we're on. That would be a 10...almost a 50 percent increase in the burden placed on the worker. Right? Is that right?