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FLOOR DEBATE

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bill would attempt to do, under the goading of business and the capitulation of the Business and Labor Committee, is to raise that period of disqualification. The 7 weeks would be raised by 6 additional weeks, to 13. The current maximum 10-week disqualification would also be raised to 13. So regardless of any extenuating or mitigating or even aggravating circumstances, any person who leaves the job voluntarily but without what is considered good cause will be treated the same. It makes no difference what factors come into play once a determination is made that the leaving was voluntary and without good cause. This is a difficult area for those on the floor who want to pretend to be concerned about the worker. They have been intimidated. They have been frightened. And I know so-called organized so-called labor has been brought to heel. I handed out a rhyme that I had written 11...well, 12 years ago. This is '05. In 1993, so-called organized labor sold out the workers when it came to workers' compensation, dealing with injured workers. They sold out the workers in 1993. Twelve years later, the same conglomeration comes to the Legislature to sell the workers out when it comes to unemployment compensation. This is the section of the bill that is the sticking point. Senator Cunningham has been told to tell you that if this provision is not accepted in exactly the form they have given it to the Legislature and ordered the Legislature to accept it, the house of cards, which this bill has been characterized as being, will all come tumbling down. What will be the result? Problems. But who can determine, at this point, exactly the extent of them, or what the ramifications will be? The business community is like a corporation. Under the law, the corporation is dealt with like a person. But a corporation, unlike a person, can have immortality. It can go on forever. All the business community has to do is wait three years, wait me out three years. Then they can come in here and do anything they want to, anything. But they're impatient. They are greedy. And they don't feel they're overreaching, because they have assessed the makeup of this Legislature and they see it as consisting of pretty poor stuff when it comes to standing up to what business wants. If a bill happens to be killed in the Revenue Committee that business wants, what difference does that make to business? Why don't they get excited? Because they've sent another bill out here, and they'll put everything in it