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FLOOR DEBATE

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happens over time is that the difference between the taxable amount and total taxable wages just gets broader, and broader, and broader. And as taxable wages in the aggregate increase, that means your average weekly salary is increasing; that then has the effect of increasing the benefits, and those will just keep going up, and up, and up, slowly over time, but your taxable amount will have been leveled off at \$9,000. So this is going to keep going up and your amount down here is going to stay the same, and the question is going to be whether your index can really offset that ever-increasing gap that you have there. And I would be interested in hearing Senator Cunningham talk about that particular item, because I think there's a bit of a soft underbelly here long-term to the system that's being set up. So I would bring that to your attention, also. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Beutler.      Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:      Mr. President, members of the Legislature, once again Senator Beutler raised an issue and he is exactly right. Whenever it comes to something that appears...takes a little nibble out of business, it's very temporary or it's very limited. The amount of income pay to be taxed will be capped at \$9,000 forever. When we talk about hurting the employees, they are hurt forever. Businesses' inconvenience is always limited temporally, to a period of time. For the workers there is no sunset. It's forever. This is a one-sided bill, and it's one-sided because of the nature of the Business and Labor Committee. As I've said, there should be two Chairs, cochairs, not Chair and Vice Chair. In Iowa--I just found this out from reading the paper--they are elected on a partisan basis, and when there is an exact split or even split in the Senate, or I guess the House too, they have cochairs for committees. Since neither party predominates, neither party has the Chair. Rather than have a committee with no Chair, they have a committee with cochairs, and that's what Business and Labor Committee ought to have. Those two things don't mix, just like oil and water don't mix. If you put an emulsifier in, you can cause some things to tend to blend which ordinarily would not. That's not the case with the Business and Labor Committee. Or there should be two