

know how many that is really, but there is going to be a lot of people that are not going to like it when they find out what has happened to them because the Legislature under this bill is saying, you will be covered by Workmen's Comp whether or not you want to be and of course the corporate officer is really paying the bill so I think he should have the choice of whether or not he wants to join and I don't think we should be held hostage by the insurance companies who are saying they will not insure the person if he is not covered by Workmen's Comp.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker, having been an insurance agent for a number of years many of the commercial accounts that I insured when I had an agency, and I just sold it last summer because two years down here I didn't have enough time for the agency so I wasn't doing justice to my accounts, but many of the corporate officers of the companies that I insured signed the waiver that they did not want Workmen's Compensation insurance. In the first place they are not out there in the traffic of where they are going to be more susceptible to injuries. In the second place I want to explain to you, Workmen's Compensation premiums are based upon the payroll. In other words, they take the rate and they multiply it times the amount of payroll a company has and that determines the premium. Now who is probably the most highest paid in a corporation? The corporate officers, and they probably have their own health and accident insurance. So by forcing them to take Workmen's Compensation insurance what we are doing is the insurance companies are forcing them to pay a higher premium for Workmen's Compensation insurance by including the corporation officers' salaries which might be \$50,000, \$100,000, \$125,000. It is of no benefit to the little employee that is making \$10,000, \$12, \$15,000 a year. It is just raising the cost of doing business whether you are a small business man or a big business man and let's face it, today even the small businesses like the one I had were incorporated for tax purposes. So speaking as an insurance agent who would like to go out there still and sell some more insurance, and I am still a licensed agent, I still have to in all fairness say the insurance company started it when they said corporation officers have the right to waive Workmen's Compensation insurance. But they don't have the right to take away their employees' Workmen's Compensation insurance and that was the purpose of Workmen's Compensation insurance, to protect the poor guy out there that wasn't making much money and to be sure that if he got injured in any way on the job that the insurance company was going to take care of his medical bills and pay a portion of his salary that he lost until he was able to return to work. I frankly