

SENATOR CLARK: The committee amendments are adopted. Now on the bill.

SENATOR BARRETT: The bill itself is another compliance bill. It is the second important change mandated by the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982. It states simply that our contribution rate, Nebraska's contribution rate must be increased from 2.7 to 5.4 percent of the wage base beginning calendar year 1985. Therefore, our states will be obliged to use the 5.4%, again, a compliance bill. I would move for the advancement of the bill as amended.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, since this bill does not take effect or the federal requirements does not take effect until 1985 I kind of wonder why we are passing this in 1983 and so I would like to address this question to Senator Barrett if he will yield and I also have several other questions.

SENATOR BARRETT: Certainly, yes. I believe it was the feeling of the committee, Senator Hefner, that the bill should be dispatched this year in order to clear the decks for other legislation coming down the pike. Why put it off until next year when it can be, in fact, disposed of this year.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, another question, did Mr. Peterson give you the details of why the federal government sees fit to double this rate from 2.7 to 5.4 for the states?

SENATOR BARRETT: No, Mr. Peterson did not give us the answer to that question. Again, this is mandated by the federal government.

SENATOR HEFNER: I realize that and I think it is about time that we take a stand on some of these things ourselves. I don't know why the federal government should mandate the state government on what we should do, so, therefore, I am going to oppose the bill and I did see that there were several persons that testified against the bill and I'm sorry that I was not able to attend a hearing and I realize that I should have but I had another bill at that particular time. So I would urge you to vote against the bill at this particular time.

SENATOR CLARK: Any further discussion on the bill? Senator Barrett, do you wish to close?

SENATOR BARRETT: I will waive closing, Mr. President. Move we advance it as amended.