

March 22, 1983

LB 432

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion? Is there further discussion on the committee amendments? If not, all those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Voting on the committee amendments to LB 432. Will you please record your vote. All those who wish to vote on the committee amendments, please do so. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The motion carried. The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Newell. Could we have order in the Chamber, please for the explanation of the bill?

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, LB 432 is a bill that I introduced for a constituent. The constituent's name is Jim Jones. Mr. Jones lives down the block from me. Happens to be a black man who is in the construction trade which is kind of unique in and of itself. But Mr. Jones is a man who as a steam fitter has worked in the trade for some eight years and has been very consistently employed during that period of time. Mr. Jones during the present recession has had to do a great deal of moving across the country in order to keep and retain employment, and consequently I would explain to you that Mr. Jones has been out of the state probably full time for the last year and a half with but one slight exception. Now I would like to tell this Legislature who may or may not understand much about the construction industry or about the way our unemployment laws work, that for those in the building trades, in order to seek and gain and retain employment they must do a little planning, a little preparation, must analyze just exactly what stage of the work that they are on at the present time is and how long it is going to last, and always seek to find other employment very rapidly. So there needs not be and there should not be any disincentives for these kinds of workers to try to move to another opportunity, employment opportunity, and it also should be recognized that these kinds of workers from time to time because they are human beings with families would like to work close to their homes. Mr. Jones was working in Illinois, I believe Wheaton, and his job that he was working on was approximately going to last another two weeks. He found an opportunity to come back to Omaha to work in the surrounding area, and he weighed the decision. The job that he was offered may have lasted a month, or it could last longer than that depending upon those imponderables in the construction trade. So Mr. Jones had to