

state's average weekly wage, and base it on that. If you will look at that handout, Colorado bases theirs 100 percent on the statewide average weekly wage, Iowa at 200 percent, Kansas at 75 percent, Missouri at 70, South Dakota at 100, and Wyoming 100. All of them wind up being considerably higher than the State of Nebraska right now. So if we raise ours a measly \$35 we're going to some how discourage business from moving across the Missouri River from Iowa to Nebraska? Come on, who are we kidding? It is not unusual, I found out in the seven years I've been here, for business to come in and say we can't afford an increase in workers comp. And it wouldn't make any difference if the economy was booming by leaps and bounds, they would still make those same arguments. They always have, and they always will, and we all know it. I, for one, am getting a little tired of it. I, for one, am getting a little tired of those people who are protected by workers comp. I have suggested, in the Labor Committee, a few times maybe we ought to, since they are so concerned about the cost of workers comp., simply do away with it, simply do away with it. Then when that niece of mine, that lost her little finger to a machine that malfunctioned, working for an industry,...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...could sue the pants off the owners of that machine, but she couldn't because workers comp. protects those employers. We think workers comp. is only for employees. My friends, workers comp. is for employers. Workers comp. means that even if it is the fault of the employer and you lose an arm, or you get hurt, or you are killed, or whatever you cannot sue your employer, and yet we are concerned about raising the cost maybe two percent. I oppose the Goll amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, speaking on Senator Goll's amendment to your amendment.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would also have to oppose Senator Goll's amendment. I understand his concern. I understand the concern of business. I think that there are those of us in here who have looked at the issue on both sides, and I know Senator Goll has. I agree with him. Business if not in good condition, and it is going to get probably worse. I recognize also that there are a number of individuals who