

wish we would take care of the amendments and then, Senator Duis, I think your question is in order.

SPEAKER: Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: I am going to let you take care of the amendments, but I notice you strike one word and insert another word here. I am sure that, probably, this is alright. Now, you are saying "household worker".

SENATOR LUEDTKE: It means nothing more than what's already..

SENATOR DUIS: All right. That's fine. I just want to be sure as we go along. Thank you.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: It's only in terminology.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion on the Committee amendments? If not, all those in favor of the Committee amendments, say aye. Those opposed, say no. The Committee amendments have carried. All right. There are other amendments. However, the introducer of the bill has the privilege of explaining the bill prior to the time that these amendments are put on, so the chair recognizes Senator Chambers, the introducer of the bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I've been made aware that there would be amendments offered, so I'll make my explanation of the bill very brief because I think most people are aware of what the bill contains and the elements in it which they object to and which I shall strenuously defend to the best of my ability. This bill would extend Workmen's Compensation coverage to categories of workers not covered presently. Primarily, and this is where I think a lot of the difficulty might come in from the Legislature, farm and ranch workers, then casual household workers or employees, or whatever term is designed to cover those people who work in private homes. The reason for the bill is based on the fact that a person who happens to be a farm worker or ranch worker who is injured should be given the same kind of consideration in terms of compensation as somebody who would work in a factory or for a retail store. The nature of his job should not determine his right to some kind of compensation. In Nebraska currently, the maximum dollar amount for unemployment compensation per week is \$62.00. The other formula is 2/3 of what the weekly income would be. Now there was a study commission authorized to bring a report to the President about the whole area of Workmen's compensation. This committee decided..this commission, that if states will not adopt some of the minimum requirements that they suggested, and this bill contains those minimum requirements, some of them, then the Federal government probably, and has been advised to do so and some Congressman are considering introduction of legislation to preempt this entire area and rather than there being a \$62.00 a week limit on what can be obtained, the requirements under the longshoreman's and harbor worker's compensation act would be the guideline. Under that, the maximum is \$167.00 a week or 125% of the average weekly income, whichever is larger, and in 1975, I think, that will go to 200% of the average weekly income. So, in a sense, Nebraska would be getting away relatively cheap by adopting this proposal rather than waiting for the Federal government to preempt. Now, I'm not using the Federal government's preemption as an argument for the bill, as such. I think the merits of the bill are just enough to carry its weight but keep in mind that there is the specter of Uncle Sam doing what the state will not due. Now, to anticipate some of the amendments and trying to remove farm workers, I have to tell a little story that I had told to me when I was running for election the first time for the Legislature. There was a General named Tucker, after the Civil War, who was a hero who wanted to run for the Senate, the U.S. Senate, from Mississippi. There was a young man named John Allen who had no particular