

February 20, 1973

(Start Belt #8)

while he slept, so those of you who are generals and slept under the tree while the private protected you, you vote for the general, those of you who were privates who protected the general while he slept, you vote for John Allen, here's what I've got to say. If we had people in the legislature who would wind up being farm workers and in a situation where they might be injured, then I think we wouldn't have any problem with passing this bill in it's present form. If we have more people who would hire farm workers and therefore be put to a bit of inconvenience doing the paper work, and a small premium that they would have to pay for this coverage, then the amendments would be adopted, the farm workers would be exempted and I think an unfair situation would have been created, but unless there are questions to me that is about the explanation I'll give of the bill, and the amendments can be entertained.

SPEAKER: Senator Snyder did you wish to explain the bill further?

SENATOR SNYDER: Mr. President and members of the body, I don't think I'm in a position to explain the bill further, but I do have some questions of Senator Chambers or someone would yield?

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers will you yield?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR SNYDER: Well we haven't talked about a very important part of the bill, as I read the bill. Not to say that the things you mentioned weren't important, they are, but there is another part to the bill here that has not been touched upon. That is that back on page 8 or page 9, I believe it is in the bill, page 8, line 15, there is one word added there, regarding the workmen's compensation court shall consist of not four but five judges, now I consider this a very important part of the bill, and I'm just wondering if we couldn't have some dialogue concerning this, because as I read the fiscal note attached to the bill, it's estimated by Judge Novicoff, that the, your bill would increase the work load of the compensation court, twenty percent or one hundred and twenty thousand people, and I'm wondering if we couldn't have some dialogue and I'll tell you why I ask this, or make this request, I recently closed a small business and I've learned a lot in the last two years about operating a business. Everybody thinks it's easy, etc., from the time you get through with all your reports and paying your unemployment, your work comp and everything else, I can truly understand the plight of the small business man in this country today, and I don't want to stand up here and say I'm opposed to your bill, but I feel that there are some people in here who are much more knowledgeable in this area than I am, and I would beg of them to participate in this discussion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, the first thing I'll say is that if this bill passes, I think the fiscal note explains it pretty well, an additional and this has to be an estimate, one hundred twenty thousand people would be covered, this obviously would increase the work load of the compensation court and it's felt that an additional judge would be needed. Other than that I don't know how to explain the need for another judge, cause I think that is self explanatory, and when the amendments are introduced that's when I think the other, as you described them, more knowledgeable people in this area will get into the discussion.

SPEAKER: Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, Ernie I guess we are going to share the microphone here. I hope you when you vote on this bill, realize what you're going to create in the way of additional insurance premiums for the insurance companies, in additional