

February 13, 1979

LB 114

at the same time and people presented testimony on both bills and it seems to the committee that the desire of the majority was to have the Legislature have control and after the hearing we worked out a compromise between members of the committee that supported the two proposals and we arrived at this amount at \$180.00. I move that this amendment be adopted.

PRESIDENT: Is there an amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner moves to amend the committee amendment on LB 114 as follows: (Read Hefner amendment to LB 114 as found on pages 507-508 of the Legislative Journal.) That is offered by Senator Hefner.

PRESIDENT: All right, the Chair recognizes Senator Hefner on an amendment to the committee amendment. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I came to the Legislature two years ago. This figure was then \$100.00 a week. That particular year we raised it to \$140.00 a week. This is a 40% increase. Last year we came back, raised it from \$140.00 to \$155.00. This is a 10% increase and now we have the proposal to raise it to \$180.00 per week. This is a 16% increase and so we kind of wonder where this is going to stop and I am not against workmen's comp. I think we need it. It is a good program but this amendment to the committee amendment that I am offering you this morning, I feel is a fair compromise, \$166.00 per week and this is a little over a 7% increase. I think that most of us recognize that we are leaders in the state. A lot of people are watching us, in fact, there is a million and a half people watching us and I think it behooves us to watch and follow President Carter's guidelines. Governor Thone, in his message to the Legislature, mentioned that he would like to stay within the 7% guidelines. We also need to remember that the compensation that is received from workmen's comp is not subject to state or federal income tax. It also is not subject to Social Security tax, so I would hope that you would support me in this particular amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp speaking to the amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR De CAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I reluctantly but must honestly oppose the amendment. Now let me tell you everything that has transpired