

by Senator DeCamp is inadequate for the working man in Nebraska but I guess it is pretty clear from Senator Hefner's attempt that indeed a deal has been cast but there is nothing those of us on the outside can do. I think it is just kind of unfortunate that Senator Brennan lost his voice last week and was not able to out argue Senator DeCamp. Perhaps the worst thing that has happened for working people in this state is the Senator from Neligh now sits on the Labor Committee and can cast these sorts of deals and push them out and run them through the Legislature. It is unfortunate that we are not able to develop the sort of comprehensive solution that Senator Brennan has proposed so that in fact not only could we get done with this in one hour this year but in one hour we could get done with this issue for the rest of the life of the Legislature. It is too bad that we could not have the sort of thing that Senator Brennan proposes so that we do not have to barter and auction workmen's compensation but I guess I see the lesson Senator Hefner learned there, that once these sorts of deals are struck, whether they are in the Labor Committee or other committees it is impossible for us on the floor to change them.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the committee amendment. As I read the testimony in the committee statement there was much support for the bill in its original form, \$170.00 per week. I submit that this is a reasonable compromise that evidently the business people have agreed to and I share Senator Fowler's concern that deals are being struck but I think those of us who are not party to those deals have to make the determination on the basis of what we think is fair and reasonable. I believe the bill as originally introduced at \$170.00 per week is a reasonable amount. It is well in excess of the 7% which most people are using as guidelines these days and so I would urge you to reject the committee amendment and then adopt the bill as drafted.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, let me try to explain just something. The only thing we are talking about here are people who earn between \$252.00 a week and \$270.00 a week. That is all. Everybody getting \$252.00 a week or less gets two thirds of their salary while they are disabled. That is it. Now what we are doing is saying everybody earning up to \$270.00 gets two thirds of