

we took the voluntary quits out of it, but we're leaving that in. That means that if an employee voluntarily quits, that after seven weeks, he is entitled to draw at the present time ninety dollars a week, and with this amendment it will be a hundred dollars a week. I guess what I want to say too, is that the higher we get this weekly rate the more abuses we'll find in the law, and at the present time we are finding some abuses. Therefore, I would urge you to oppose this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I would also oppose the bill very much on the same grounds that Senator Hefner. I would like to call your attention to this. The statement is usually made, the employer pays it so don't worry. The employer does pay it, but those costs are passed on to the consumer, so it's the consumer that pays, and pays and pays, anytime that costs are added, and don't forget that when you vote, and particularly on the point of the person who voluntarily walks off the job, I agree with Senator Hefner. They have a choice. The job is there, and if they voluntarily quit, then I can see no reason why they should be protected in this way. So consider the fact that it's the consumer in the long run that pays all the increases in this type of a bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Brennan.

SENATOR BRENNAN: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, the two gentlemen that addressed the subject are talking about the wrong bill. The items they're talking about are included in another bill that's out on the floor, and they'll get a chance to talk on that later. When you're talking about who draws a hundred dollars, or the maximum in 76, it would have taken sixty-four hundred dollars to draw the maximum, 68 or 77, or 77 it would take sixty-eight hundred dollars, and in 1978 it would have taken seventy-four hundred dollars. The jobs they're talking about that are available just don't draw that maximum. They're scaled down according to annual earnings. Nebraska...they talk about disqualification, we might as well get at it. Nebraska has the highest disqualification in the whole United States...bar none. You're talking about lots of jobs available. Right now, we spoke about this this morning, approximately twenty to twenty-five thousand people in Omaha, where we have a high unemployment rate, are working on some federally aided job, and I guarantee these people aren't drawing the kind of money that they could draw the maximum.