

March 20, 1979

LB 183

I think we ought to address this bill. As I said, I think this raise is totally inadequate. Right now there's only three states in the union that pay less for a maximum. I move that we advance this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell, and then Senator Fowler. No.

SENATOR NEWELL: I call the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question's been called for. All those... do you want...will you all take your lights off, please, that have them up here? The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 10 ayes, 12 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator...the motion lost, debate does not cease. The Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well I'd support advancement of this bill and support what Senator Brennan was saying. I think that if this was an unreasonable amount or if it somehow made major changes in our unemployment law, it obviously would not be on this list, because the Labor Committee with its diverse representation would not have found that acceptable. So I think that basically what we have here is obviously something that is just a cost of living escalator that is passed. As far as I can remember every year some sort of adjustment has been made in this amount and I think that that is the question we should address. I think with the amendment, with the support of the Labor Committee, it would obviously appear to be a reasonable increase to take care of that cost of living. Basically, because of the rate of inflation, we're not providing any increase in actual dollar or actual purchasing power, and for that reason I do not see that this bill has anything that should be opposed.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, do you wish to speak on the motion to advance?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, I guess I'm a little bit confused by some of the comments that have been offered here this afternoon. I do not believe the bill has any reference whatsoever to the voluntary quits. I, myself, am very violently opposed to paying anyone who would voluntarily quit his job, but I believe we want to remember that the Department of Labor has substantial authority at the present time to