

March 28, 1979

LB 358

SENATOR NICHOL: Are you asking Senator Hefner a question, sir?

SENATOR BRENNAN: Yes.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Hefner, would you respond to the question?

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes.

SENATOR NICHOL: What was your question, Senator Brennan?

SENATOR BRENNAN: Would you explain this bill?

SENATOR HEFNER: Well, I...Senator Brennan, are you President of the AFofL-CIO?

SENATOR BRENNAN: You know that.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay. I would think with your expertise that you'd be in a much better position to explain this than I would.

SENATOR BRENNAN: Thank you. You know...you don't understand it, you mean?

SENATOR NICHOL: Excuse me, gentlemen, Senator Brennan you have an amendment...

SENATOR BRENNAN: Okay, I'll talk to the Chair. My amendment guts the bill and gets rid of what I tried to do in the first place...was change the schedule on workmen's comp so a person losing the hearing in both ears through an accident would be compensated. As it now stands, there is a minimal amount paid for loss of one ear, and just double that for two years...for two ears, and there is an awful lot of difference in being completely deaf and hearing in one ear only. As I say, my bill will strike...my amendment strikes all the new language in the bill and provides for loss of hearing in both ears in an accident, to be total disability, and loss of hearing in two different ears is left to the court's discretion. I move that this amendment be adopted.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, if I understand the amendment offered by Senator Brennan, it would put total deafness as a workman's comp... compensation in the same category as total blindness, and