

April 11, 1979

LB 581

SPEAKER MARVEL: Do you have an amendment on the desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Landis moves to amend:  
(Read Landis amendment found on page 1420 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it seems as if we have talked about the illegal alien problem enough so that we understand it and I assume that the body is fairly ready to vote on that issue. I am bringing before the body now, an amendment that has to do with unemployment compensation from military service. This amendment is not the same as the illegal alien issue although it is contained in the same place and I am bringing to the body an issue that came before the Labor Committee and which at that time we had no bill that could function for the purposes of this amendment. I reluctantly offer it because apparently it is something that we need to face in the state and let me explain what the amendment does. If you will notice on your books on page 30, the section that is to be stricken reads as such, it is subsection (j) and this is speaking about kinds of disqualifications: "If an individual has been discharged from military service or released from active duty after 20 years or more of service and has not been employed since such discharge or release," this is treated as a disqualification from benefits. What was attempted to be accomplished by this language was to prohibit double dipping. In other words where someone was receiving a military pension and they also applied for unemployment compensation, an end which I personally am very sympathetic to, however, what we have now is a situation that the federal contract under which the program for this kind of compensation is being managed will be withdrawn because of Nebraska's language, this language in point of fact. The UCX program is completely federal funds and it is funds that are sent to the state for the purpose of the reentry kind of compensation that military pensioners receive as they readjust into civilian life. So we are not saving any, either employer or state tax dollar money, by having this disqualification in our law. What we have is a disqualification from federal funds for recently exfederal employees. Now, what has happened is, the federal regional officers of the U.S. Department of Labor have indicated that the contract under which the state administers this program is violated by this language and if this language is not stricken the program