

March 15, 1982

LB 765

SENATOR CLARK: Right.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: In that case, I withdraw the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: All right, the amendment is withdrawn. Senator Landis, did you want to talk on the amendment? All right, the question before the House is the adoption of the amendment as explained by Senator Barrett. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The committee amendments are adopted. Now on the bill, Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, members, LB 765, a bill introduced by the Business and Labor Committee, modifies various provisions to our unemployment insurance statutes. A brief synopsis perhaps, Section 1 increases the maximum weekly benefits from the present \$106 to \$116; and Section 2 repeals language which provides for reduction in benefits according to the number of weeks the claimant has been disqualified for a voluntary quit or a discharge for misconduct from his employment. We also increased the base period wages required to be eligible for benefits to \$1200 in a base period, that is from the current \$600, with at least \$400 having been earned in at least two calendar quarters. We also provide that an individual who voluntarily quits or is discharged for misconduct or fails to accept suitable work shall be disqualified from benefits until he has earned six times his weekly benefit amount in insured work. We also provide that under the proposed requalifying system base period employers are still entitled to noncharging of their experience accounts, and finally we provide the claimants receiving benefits on the effective date of the bill would not have their benefit amounts recalculated because of any changes in the bill, that is their benefits could not be reduced. I would suggest to you that the Business and Labor Committee has worked long and hard on this particular bill; two interim studies, hearings, that is, held in Omaha and Lincoln this summer; a great amount of work this fall. We feel that it is a good bill and I would therefore move the advancement of the bill as amended.