

April 14, 1982

LB 629A, 115

CLERK: (Record vote read. See pages 1920 and 1921, Legislative Journal.) 39 ayes, 7 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The bill is declared passed on Final Reading. The Clerk will now read LB 115.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk.

SENATOR CLARK: Read the motion.

CLERK: Senator Hefner would move to return LB 115 to Select File for specific amendment, that amendment being to strike the enacting clause.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the Unicameral, I hate to do this this late in the game with only one more day left but I feel that I should point out a few things to you at this late date. Now is not the time to increase expenses for Nebraska employers. Most of us realize that we are having a downturn in our economy and it doesn't look like it is going to pick up at a very early date. In my area there has been some businesses go out of business. There have been some bankruptcies and I am sure we are going to see more and this is just another way to break the camel's back. I think that we ought to take a long hard look at this bill. This bill increases the workmen's comp payments by \$10 a week on the high end and, of course, this is going to cost the employers a little more premium in their workmen's comp insurance. The maximum weekly benefit payment at the present time is \$180 a week. This would raise it to \$190 a week. We must remember that the employee that receives this compensation does not pay any state income tax nor does he pay any federal income tax nor social security on this amount that he receives. The \$180 a week would be like receiving \$220 or maybe \$225 or even up to \$250 a week and I think that is adequate compensation. Also I want to call your attention to the A bill. It costs nearly \$10,000 to the State of Nebraska for this next fiscal year, '82-83. Then it increases to \$14,000 in the year '83-84 and so I would say to you here today let's delay this bill for one year. Then if the economy picks up, I am willing to go along with an increase, and with these remarks, Mr. Chairman, I would like to withdraw my motion.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Fowler. The Clerk will read the bill. He has withdrawn it. There is nothing before the House.

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