

would have been billed in essence for another \$4 million, 3.5. That means the fund would have only increased after the benefits were paid out, it would have only increased by \$8 million. So what I am saying is that there doesn't necessarily have to be an increase in the tax to the employers. The money is there. Again, Nebraska is the most difficult state in which to qualify for unemployment. Also our benefits, our benefits rank 45th out of 50 states. So if there is any such thing as a good place to be unemployed in the United States, you combine our ranking of 45th in terms of benefit amount with 50th by a great margin in terms of qualification or disqualification...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...you are looking at Nebraska being the least enjoyable place to be unemployed in the United States. I would appreciate your support in passing LB 216. I would appreciate your support in passing this amendment which would in essence become LB 216. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Before we continue, Senator Pirsch has a special guest under the south balcony, Mrs. Lyle McBride, and this happens to be Carol McBride Pirsch's mother. Would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. I understand we have an amendment, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Barrett would move to amend Senator Hall's amendment. (Read Barrett amendment as found on page 1301 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. I want to, first of all before I explain the amendment, compliment Senator Hall for his amendment to amend the green copy from \$155 to \$154 which actually maintains the integrity of the benefit table which we have known for so many years. I can also appreciate Senator Hall's feeling in attempting to increase the unemployment benefits nearly 29 percent. My amendment simply increases the benefit...the benefits from \$120 to \$126 rather than Senator Hall's 120 to 154 dollars. This would represent about a 5 percent increase, my amendment, in the maximums rather than the 28 plus percent increase as would be the case with Senator Hall's amendment. I frankly don't think