

could we have a little...

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Gavel.)

SENATOR HIGGINS: I don't care if nobody listens to me, it is just that I can't keep my thoughts going when I am hearing all these other conversations.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Yes, you are right and we should hold it down. Please hold it down. Thank you, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: In 1981 I voted against increasing unemployment compensation because at that time there were still plenty of jobs available and there weren't that many layoffs. The other day my good friend Senator Barrett and I were talking about unemployment compensation and I said, Bill, I wish you would check something for me. I heard a rumor that when you go and apply for unemployment, and if they find you a job, you have an option of refusing the first three, up to three offers for a job, and if you refuse three offers, then you lose your unemployment benefits. I said you know I think that is something we ought to look into. If a man or woman is out of work, they ought to be willing to take any kind of work to be self-supporting. Now I don't know if it is true or false that you can turn down three jobs before you lose unemployment but I have always said I will move heaven and earth to help someone who can't help themselves but I wouldn't lift a finger to help someone who won't help themselves. So if Senator Barrett in his research finds out that the rumor I heard is true, I would co-sponsor a bill next year or sponsor it myself that if you are offered a job through the unemployment office and you refused to take it because it just doesn't happen to be your career style, then you ought not get unemployment insurance or compensation. But I think what Senator Hall has brought to us today is a real need, something you have not considered, you are thinking about the amount of money a person makes. First of all, everybody doesn't get the maximum. Second of all, a man who is getting a \$100 a week might be single and have nobody to take care of but himself and the man standing in line right behind him might have a wife and three or four children and they are both going to have to make do on a \$100 a week. I would urge the body to reject Senator Barrett's amendment and go with Senator Hall's proposal and I would remind you that even though it is going to cost business I have not heard one word from the