

are other things involved with employment. You are looking at hospitalization benefits and things that an individual who is out of a job cannot afford, they cannot afford on unemployment, that is for sure. So I think that when we are talking about a 5 percent increase as Senator Barrett has suggested, I think it is a little misleading. We are talking about \$34 when you look at that maximum figure. Granted, there are people right now who are eligible for \$120 and under this amendment there would be people who would be eligible for \$154, but what we are talking about, we are looking at the average citizen, the average employee who is going to be making approximately \$113 a week. \$113 a week, take it times four, we are looking at approximately, what, \$452? There is not a lot of people that have house payments anymore that are under \$452. I think that what we are talking about here is whether or not business would like this increase. I guess they wouldn't. I don't blame them. I guess if I was an employer I wouldn't probably enjoy an increase but it is a part of doing business. In 1935, Franklin Roosevelt came up with the idea of the unemployment compensation program and it was intended to provide temporary aid to workers unemployed through no fault of their own. We are not helping out the people that say, hey, I am tired of my supervisor, hey, I don't like this job anymore.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: In order for someone to qualify in the State of Nebraska, they have to go through the most stringent examination of any state in the nation. They have got to qualify, and to qualify in the State of Nebraska really means something, more than it does anywhere else in the country. Senator Higgins, in terms of the three jobs turned down, if someone is offered a job that is comparable in pay, they are required to take it. Otherwise they are disqualified for unemployment compensation. Comparable in pay means something that is close or nearly the same as what they were making before they were unemployed. The reason for that is that oftentimes their years of experience, we are talking about skilled people, whether they be in business or in the construction industry, that have skills that bring a certain wage because they are able to do a certain job. They are offered jobs oftentimes that are at a minimum wage. They are unable to meet their...