

partial, give a family an opportunity to maintain some minimum or basic standard of living while seeking additional employment. Remember also that these benefits are tax free, tax free. That should make some difference. I think the bottom line simply is not what I want or we want but what we can afford. If businesses are struggling to keep their doors open out there, and they are, ladies and gentlemen, they are, then this isn't the time to take a drastic increase of over 28 percent in these maximum weekly benefits. I would urge the body to sustain this motion, to vote for the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the Barrett amendment to the Hall amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Simple majority. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Barrett's amendment to Senator Hall's amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The amendment to the Hall amendment passes. Now I understand we have another amendment to the Hall amendment coming, but may I introduce some guests of Senator Baack please. Under the north balcony are six 10th, 11th, and 12th graders from the Kimball County High School with their sponsor, Future Homemakers of America with whom they are connected in the Kimball High School. Would you please stand and be recognized. It is good to have you in from the west. Thank you for visiting the Legislature. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hall would move to amend his amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, members, I would move to amend the amendment down to a maximum benefit of \$138. \$138 is approximately midway between \$120 where we are currently at and \$154 where my original amendment would have had us. In 1980 there was a federal blue ribbon panel that was put together at the federal level to examine, take a close look at unemployment compensation. What they came up with was suggestions to the states as to where they felt the unemployment compensation level should be and that blue ribbon panel said that by 1985 states should be paying unemployed workers at the rate of 66 2/3 percent of their