

April 1, 1985

LB 216

up because we won't have another fiscal impact. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, please.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, now we have heard quite a bit of comment in here this morning about how we really shouldn't raise the unemployment benefits because of the severe economic distress that businesses are undergoing across this state. Let me...let's talk about that severe economic distress that business is undergoing and I get a lot of letters from people telling me that we don't dare pass LB 216 because of that economic stress, and most of these are coming from various manufacturing or business concerns and they generally someplace in their letter indicate that their distress is because of the agricultural distress, which I think is rather humorous that they write me a letter to tell me about the agricultural distress, but the point that I think most of us miss is this. Those people that we are talking about that would get benefits from unemployment, such as those people that are going to be out of work out there at Lexington because of New Holland shutting down or Grand Island and, admittedly, they are shutting down because of agricultural distress, those people through no fault of their own that are out of work are the consumers of this state and this nation. You know I generally write back to these people of these letters I just referred to and tell them that I understand their distress, I understand their concerns but I also understand the need of those people that are being laid off. You know those 400 folk that are out there that are going to be laid off, admittedly they are not going to be able to be buying beefsteak much longer. They probably won't be able to buy beefsteak at all, but as one of those agricultural distressed people, I would sure hope that they would have enough money to at least buy hamburger once in awhile. You know we sometimes fail to realize that what we are talking about here is money put into the economy. Sure we can hold them down considerably. We can say to heck with you, but you know if we do that, they are not going to be out there buying the things that keep this system working. Those businesses that talk about how we have got to not raise unemployment or we don't dare raise workmen's comp, those businesses if they had to depend on the wives of the other businessmen around town for their success in their business would soon close their doors, I can assure you. Those