

people who are on unemployment who were drawing now \$20,000 a year, they lose their jobs also, they are not receiving anywhere near the compensation that would induce them to stay home, induce them not to look for new work. Those are people that are just out of luck. They don't want to be on unemployment. They don't run to the unemployment office. To them unemployment is really not much help at all. It is kind of a last resort for them. Senator Haberman made a comment that we would be looking at a \$3.5 million expenditure. Those monies would come out of the unemployment trust fund. Again, Senator Barrett said we are at currently for December of '84, \$75 million. Last year it increased \$11 million. That means that if the \$154, my original amendment, were in place, the \$3.5 million expenditure that Senator Haberman talked about, we would only make \$7.5 million after taking in there the employers' money, paying out the claims, collecting the interest on the fund, we would have only made \$7.5 million. If only all our state agencies would only have made \$7.5 million last year, we wouldn't be in such a bad fix. I am not saying wipe out the fund. I am just saying we do a good job of managing it. These people are in a bad way. They are there through no fault of their own. Anyone who quits, they are penalized, seven to ten weeks without a benefit. Anyone who is fired for misconduct or whatever...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...they, too, are required to sit through a waiting period of seven to ten weeks. The \$138 level is not a good level, I don't like it, but I am hoping it is a compromise level, one that you can all live with. It is not a lot of money that we are talking about. It is money that is there. It is not an expenditure that is going to cost the state anything. It is not going to cost employers a dime. We are not going to raise their tax rate for unemployment. I urge your support for this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson please.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise to support Senator Hall's amendment. His amendment probably doesn't reflect a compromise, it probably reflects very simply an opportunity to obtain for the laboring men and women of our state something that begins to approach a