

call your attention to these. I think that Senator Hall's amendment is a little too great right at these times, right at these troubled economic times. I think Senator Hall also mentioned the unemployment compensation fund, we have a lot of money in it. Well, colleagues, we want to keep a lot of money in it. We want to keep, I feel, a minimum of \$60 million in this fund because we don't know what this economy is going to do. I feel that the way the ag economy is now that eventually it is going to affect a lot of businesses and industries throughout Nebraska, even in Omaha and Lincoln, so I think we need to keep this fund solid. We only set the...the Department of Labor sets this rate annually and so I don't think we want to drop that or drop the amount of money we have in this fund. I would certainly urge you to vote against the Hall amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lundy, please.

SENATOR LUNDY: Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise to oppose the Hall amendment. I think the Barrett amendment is certainly sufficient, maybe not sufficient for everything that everybody wants but sufficient for the needs of those people. It is necessary for all of us to be concerned about those unemployed people. We have compassion in this state that we live in. We are noted for taking care of those that need help to survive, but by the same token, I think we must realize that people in greater Nebraska certainly have a real hard row to hoe today. It might not be quite as noticeable in the City of Lincoln or in certain parts of the City of Omaha but certainly in greater Nebraska we have some problems of unemployment that a lot of you do not realize. There are those shutdowns of plants, plants that are closing for good, the employees seeking employment, and I realize that it is necessary for us to help but we must also be conservative and prudent in our thinking and try to remember that the money does not come easily in our state. It is necessary to have ample reserves for the kind of times that we are living in, as Senator Hefner has pointed out. It is very necessary. We want to keep those reserves and any time that anybody tells you it doesn't cost employers money for unemployment compensation need to do a little more homework. It does cost. They must contribute to this fund, and if we increase the rates of unemployment to those unemployed, we consequently subsequently will increase the rates to the employers in our state. We must be conscious of this fact. I would urge all of you to