

oppose the Hall amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Barrett, then Senator Lynch.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President. I obviously rise in opposition to the Hall amendment. I understand where Senator Hall is coming from and I appreciate it. We have talked about it on previous occasions. I should also mention to Senator Chizek I am sorry that I was unable to provide the numbers which you inquired about earlier, Senator Chizek. It would appear that there were about 10,297 initial claims filed in 1984 and it would appear that about 49, almost 50 million dollars was paid out of the trust fund this past year. Sorry about that. Mr. President, I tried to make a case for the 5 percent increase. I thought that I had. I feel that the 15 percent increase as recommended now by Senator Hall is excessive. I would remind the body that in 1983 when we passed LB 524 introduced by Senator Labeledz, I believe, the second quarter average for weekly wage at that time was about \$266.76. Now in today on 216, the second quarter wages in 1984, about \$280.60. That difference then in the two years is about 5.18 percent increase in the average weekly wage which hopefully again is another argument in favor of the case that I was trying to make for a 5 percent increase, 5.18 in the average weekly wage over the two year period. Again I think the 5 percent increase in my amendment was reasonable and responsible. I would ask the body to oppose Senator Hall's amendment at \$138. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch, please.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Tim Hall's amendment. You know as I listen to the Legislature, I try not to talk too much as a freshman Senator but I come to the conclusion that on the part of most people in the Legislature never is the time to do anything. I don't know when it will be the appropriate time to do something. Sometimes we are lost in who is going to be helped and who is going to be hurt. We are simply talking here about working stiffs. I was in business for 30 years, I paid a lot of worker's compensation. I never begrudged it to anybody. The people we are talking about are the people making house payments. They are taking care of themselves, not somebody who is a welfare recipient or if you have any bias or bigotry against