

any kind of folks like that. This has to do with simply people who were working for a living and we are not talking about a 50 percent increase. We are talking about an average increase of about \$95 or \$98 or \$99 a week to \$108. That doesn't equate into 15 percent to me. It seems reasonable. I think there are bigger fish in the legislative kettle for the business community to worry about rather than this insignificant increase at this time for this year and probably for two or three years down the line in the worker compensation income legislation. I think it is the right thing to do and this is the right time to do it. I hope a majority of you will have the same kind of consideration for the people who simply work for a living as you seem to show for everyone else. Farmers have been mentioned. I have probably promised myself to never talk about farmers when I stood up, but I have to tell you, farmers aren't involved in the worker's compensation program. However, the economy is out there and how it applies to farmers, they are not involved or pay into this particular fund. I think most of you already know that. I would urge you to support this very reasonable amendment.

**SPEAKER NICHOL:** Senator Chambers, then Senator Higgins.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is a proposition which is not difficult for me to support at all with this proviso. Senator Hall, and you can't help it, it offers too small an increase based on what we need but we have to try to go for what practically speaking is possible. As Senator Johnson pointed out, if you talk about a cost of living increase, but you are going to tack that to something which was below a level of decency, you really haven't done anything except to spotlight how great an injustice had been done originally. It is like the situation where a person such as myself am in a 26 mile marathon and the first 3 miles I have to run with a 50 pound weight on my back. So I begin to say this is unfair, this is discriminatory, nobody else carries the weight. So, they say, okay, Ernie, you have run for 3 miles with the weight, we will take the weight off of you, and from this point on, you will run on the same basis as everybody else, but the 3 miles that I had to run with the extra weight has caused such a deficit for me there is really no competition because I am out of the race. Now that I am running without the additional weight, those who tended to be unfair in the first place will say justice has