

simple. The original amounts in the bill were quite substantial. I could not support those. Early in the session in meetings with various people from business to labor people I suggested \$132 to \$134. The reason I did that was because I believed that was reasonably balanced with the rate of inflation, figuring inflation about 4 to 5 percent the last couple years, at least 4 to 5 percent in the area that would impact the people here. It's probably more than that for those people, but overall about a 4 percent inflation factor is what we're recognizing. So my amendment, I felt, was a reasonable settlement on a fair basis of the unemployment, \$132. My other concern was whether in any way this would increase to the employer the amount that they're having to pay for unemployment taxes, because as somebody who has paid more than a few of these unemployment dollars and had some concerns about the entire concept of unemployment, I did not want to see the businessman, the individual paying the tax impacted. I think it has been handed out to you now, a letter that would pretty well document, I'd quote you a last paragraph. "I project the maximum WBA could go to \$138 if the unemployment rate did not exceed 2.3 and the trust fund balance would not be reduced below the beginning balance and I think it suggests also in there there would not be any need for an increase in the employer's payments. As I say, I think the original amount was far too high. I think the other amount that was finally settled on, maybe reasonably so at the time, was a shade too low and I feel \$132 should settle this issue for the next couple of years. I'd like to see us, when we deal with workmen's comp. and unemployment, try to get them two or three years at a time. We've done a two year program. This would settle it for another two or three years and settle it without being hyperinflationary or even in any way inflationary. So I'd urge you to support the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. President, this is a motion to bring the bill back for the purpose of the amendment?

PRESIDENT: That's correct. This is a motion to return the bill to Select File for the specific amendment.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you. I must rise, of course, in opposition to the motion to return. I believe that we had a