

back to the state unemployment funds. There was a committee formed to study this back in 1983 which consisted of two from railroad management, a president of the Association of the American Railroads and Chairman of the National Railway Conference along with labor. They worked very hard. They submitted their conclusions in June of 1984. The members of the committee unanimously were in favor of the railroad managing their own system. I might add that from about 1981 to 1983, the number of railroad employees decreased from about 514,000 down to 388,000, a drop of 25 percent in 18 months. No system could really afford the compensation that that would call for in their states. The average nationwide unemployment is \$165 a week. The railroad employees and the railroad management prefer to have their own system which has worked very well through all of these years and their employment is \$135 a week. Railroad management saw fit to increase the funding so that it was solvent. The railroad workers also increased the funding. I think in light of all of this and the railroad employees that we have within the State of Nebraska, I certainly ask for support from this body for this resolution. There is no system that could really stand the effects, if it was a large reduction in railroad employment, to absorb what the compensation would be, yet the railroad employees are willing to have their own and management and it has worked very successful. I might add it is probably just another way of maybe trying to shift and trying to cut the working person from the federal government and something else for the states to pay. I certainly hope that this body sees fit to support this resolution.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, then Senator Hall and Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR WESELY: I think we ought to be brief on this and I'll just say I agree with the other comments made. This would be bad for Nebraska, particularly because of all of our railroad workers. I didn't sign this because I wanted to look at it, I have studied it and I think it makes sense for Nebraska in particular to oppose this practice and support this resolution.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: (No response.)