

that problem. Senator DeCamp went over some of the other states. It is surprising for me to see that California only pays \$224 a week for workmen's comp. They certainly have a lot higher wages than we do in Nebraska. Let's go over the employee choice. Nebraska, like 25 other states, allows an employee his or her choice of physician. In other words you can go to your family doctor, whereas in some of these other states you can't. You can get medical care rather than just having a choice of the employer, where the employer tells you you've got to go to this doctor or to that doctor, or select a doctor that is on the state list. Let's talk about the no time or monetary limits. Some states have these, but Nebraska doesn't. Nebraska does not place a time limit or an amount limit on workmen's compensation income benefits for those cases resulting in total disability. I think right now we do have inflation under control...

SENATOR CARSTEN: One minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: ...and this bill is inflationary. The 12.5 percent increase...bill that we passed last year has an inflationary effect. Many industries are facing stiff competition from foreign countries. I think we read about that in the papers every day. So I think we need to be mindful of this. I feel that setting rates for the workmen's compensation benefits should be the responsibility of this Legislature. Let's not delegate that responsibility to some others. So I would urge you to support the kill motion on this bill.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Barrett is next up. Senator Barrett, if I may, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Shirley Marsh this morning. They have just come in. They are members from the Ivory Coast National Assembly. Mr. Kale, Mr. Thiemele, Mr. Kone, and Mr. Kindo...Mrs., excuse me, Mrs. Kindo, and Mr. Manning is from the United States Department of State. We welcome you to our Legislature and hope you enjoy your stay in Nebraska. Let's give them a good hand of welcome. Senator Barrett. Thank you, you may proceed.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, perhaps some of you have noticed that there isn't quite as much interest in this issue this year as there has been in the past. I think that is significant. Normally we talk about this issue on a biennial basis. Here