

job, we will take a reduction, we will take a reduction. I am not going to identify those individuals. I think you know who they are. I want to point out that many times we get on this floor and we engage in some sort of an auction activity. I am not going to do that now. I think that we made a commitment last year. I have carried those bills. As a rural legislator, I have carried them.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Forty-five seconds left.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I proudly carry them. I will do it again when I think it right, but I do not think it is right now to advance LB 958. I believe we should kill 958, come back another time under a different kind of a climate, different kind of an economic situation and take another look at it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Hoagland, you're next, but before you start the Chair would like to take this opportunity to welcome, on behalf of the members, to the Legislature, 39 members of the Field Club Area Senior Citizens Center, Nellie Goman, Director, from the Omaha area. We do indeed welcome you to the Unicameral and hope that you enjoy your visit very much. Would you rise so that we may welcome you, please. Senator Hoagland, please.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Let me have your attention, if I can, a moment because I'd like to clarify one misstatement that has been made repeatedly by the proponents of this bill, by the proponents of this motion, sorry. And that is I want to clarify what the actual cost of this has been. I think Senator Hefner indicated there has been a 12 1/2 percent increase last year. Senator Barrett made some comments to the same effect. Senator DeJamp said there has been a large increase in Nebraska over the last three or four years. Now, that's true, there have been increases in the maximum benefit, but that maximum benefit only affects a very few workers. It only affects those workers...the only workers who are going to benefit from this bill are those that make more than \$337.50 per week because let me remind you that what you're entitled to on your workmen's comp benefits are two-thirds of your average weekly wage. That's what you're entitled to, two-thirds of your average weekly wage up to a cap. The cap is now 225. This bill would raise it to 238 approximately for the first year and two figures higher for