

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Debate has ceased. Senator DeCamp, would you like to close on your motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I would like to close on the motion to kill, indefinitely postpone the bill and in doing so I would like to very quickly cover ten points, most of them raised by some of the supporters of the bill. Senator Landis started with a question. He said, where has Senator DeCamp been the last eight years, I think it was. How many years? The last many years on this issue in here. Senator Landis, the answer to your question is, for the last 15 years, actually this is the 16th one, I have been here, and if you will check the record, believe it or not, you will find I think that the majority, the majority of bills increasing workmen's compensation or amendments successfully placed on it were mine. So I have been involved in the issue. And then you made the point, and you made the point very clearly, that the right to have a choice of doctor was not something easily come by, it was a vicious, tough battle out here on the floor. You're right, you're right, and the point is, the point is that choice was won in that vicious, tough battle. Some of those other things that give Nebraska a very generous plan include choice of doctor which was won through legislative debate; no offset, won through legislative debate; no caps which most other states have in one form or another, won through legislative debate; no limit on how long, how long you continue to get benefits, disability benefits, won through legislative debate. The fact is the amount we have right now is the second highest in the United States of the fixed benefit plans. That's a simple fact. Another simple fact is, with the increase we placed in there last year, we did increase it over a period of three years, a total of about 25 percent which is a substantial increase. It is certainly more than "the cost of living." The fact is that the employer pays 100 percent. Many people think it's like Social Security where one side pays some, the other side pays some, not true. The employer pays 100 percent of this amount. So if you make dramatic increases, you make a significant or dramatic impact upon the business climate in Nebraska. Senator Landis suggested that the pace of increases had not kept up with the rate of inflation. I believe if you will check, you will find the increases have been 237 percent over the last 15 years. I believe, that's the maximum, and of course it depends upon