

year and next year and still gives a very significant, at least significant in these times, increase to public employees. So I support his amendment and still would caution public employees and those supporting the 3 percent with no modifications whatsoever. I would caution them, don't ask for too much because it's very possible you could end up with nothing.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Vard Johnson, please on the Hefner amendment.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to call to the attention of the body a provision that is contained within LB 1250 and that provision that is contained within LB 1250 that doesn't deal at all with salaries says that all state employees shall be prohibited from using the Commission on Industrial Relations for the next one year to deal with salary issues. Now it seemed to me if we passed LB 1250 to provide state employees with a 2 percent pay raise, but at the same time took away from them their current right to use the Commission on Industrial Relations for the next one year, we in effect have said to our state employees, (a) you can't strike, they probably wouldn't do it anyhow, but you can't strike; (b) you can't use the Commission on Industrial Relations and (c) we're going to give you a 2 percent pay raise. Now I think that acting on the 2 percent amendment is totally and absolutely premature. I think that we need to wait and see what the Economic Advisory Forecasting Board says and then we will slowly piece together a budget that is in keeping with the economics of our time, but I think it would be a mistake, a terrible mistake, for us to say we will provide a 2 percent increase only for our state employees and at the same time take away from them a statutory right to go to the Commission on Industrial Relations for wage negotiations or wage assistance. At a 3 percent salary increase taking away that right for one year is not nearly as Draconian as a 2 percent increase would be. I will rise in opposition, obviously, to Senator Hefner's amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Hefner, would you like to close on your amendment, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I'm not going to take too much time in closing because I think most of the minds are made up in this body, but this is just a small part of the budget, just a small part. It's just 3 1/2 or \$3.6 million, but if we are able to cut a million here and a million there and a couple million over in another place, it