

March 11 1993

LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

10:00 a.m.

PRESIDING CHAIRMEN: Senator Coalpietro Representative Lawlor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATORS: Maloney, DeLuca

REPRESENTATIVES: Demarinis, Esposito, Eberle, Donovan, Buonocore, Boughton, Andrews, Cafero,

Powers, Jackson-Brooks, Dargan

BRADLEY SCHOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name

is Brad Schofield. I use to be an employee of Nabisco Brands. I have been on worker's comp now for approximately 10 years. I consider myself to be a victim, rather than a recipient. I have had my comp cut off for over a year by the Travelers Insurance Company. It took me a year to be able to get for a hearing. Upon the hearing, I was given the money for the year. They admitted they were wrong.

No interest was ever paid. The insurance companies are at the heart of this whole matter, where people are talking about greed and money, rather than what people have to go through with in their daily lives. It comes to a point that it's ridiculous about whether or not you're going to give us 100% or 150%, because when it comes down to being paid, as in the case with statute 308b, which is the two-third's payed differential, we are supposed to be able to get up to 15 years of this paid by statute. It works out that we get three years by

fact. This is 20% of what is written in the law that we're entitled to when you're totally disabled. I have a 30% disability in one leg and a 20% in the other.

My company had sent a truck out on the road that I written up repeatedly as having bad brakes. After the accident, all reports of the truck having the bad brakes disappeared. The truck was gone within five days and I'm left with worker's comp. I talked to Commissioner Arcudi yesterday and I asked him, is it true in the state of Connecticut you cannot sue your employer for negligence. He said yes. I asked him if it's true you cannot sue for gross negligence, and he said yes. You can only sue your employer in the state of Connecticut for gross, wanton and willful negligence, if you can prove it's directed specifically at you. If it's directed at the entire work force at large, you're SOL. It comes down to the fact that nobody gives a damn about nothing. People, when they're on worker's comp, it's no road for riches. All you do is get pain and misery out of it. Travelers Insurance Company routinely cuts people off of their money . . .

SEN. COLAPIETRO: Could you summarize? Your time has run out.

BRADLEY SCHOFIELD: The summary is that the laws have got to be changed to protect the worker. You have

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limping cripples - it looks like a damn war zone!
You don't do nothing for the people of Connecticut.
All you want is the almighty buck. That's summary.
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