IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA

FILED
SEP 30 1987
CLERK SUPREME COURT

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VASILIOS KARRAS,	)
Petitioner-Appellant,	)
vs.	)
CONTINENTAL BAKING CO., INC. and INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA,	)
Respondents-Appellees.	)

Filed September 30, 1987

7-283
86-1518

Appeal from the Iowa District Court for Woodbury County (No. 91550C) - Michael S. Walsh, Judge.

The petitioner appeals from the district court's affirmance of the Iowa Industrial Commissioner's decision modifying a hearing officer's award of workers' compensation benefits. **AFFIRMED.**

David L. Gill, Sioux City, for petitioner-appellant.

James M. Cosgrove and Paul D. Lundberg, of Shull, Cosgrove, Hellige, Kudej & DuBray, Sioux City, for respondents-appellees.

Considered by Donielson, P.J., and Schlegel, and Sackett, JJ.

PER CURIAM 111

Claimant, Vasilios Karras, appeals from the district court's affirmance of the Iowa Industrial Commissioner's decision modifying a hearing officer's award of workers' compensation benefits by lowering the percentage of industrial disability.

Claimant sustained an industrial injury on February 1, 1979. At all three levels below us, the factfinders agree claimant suffered a twenty percent functional impairment of the body as a whole by reason of this injury. The original hearing officer, however, found that claimant was wrongfully discharged in March 1983 for reasons "surrounding" the February 1979 injury. Thus, the hearing officer concluded, the discharge contributed to claimant's industrial disability, creating a thirty percent industrial disability to the body as a whole.

The commissioner reduced the thirty percent finding to twenty percent. The commissioner found claimant's discharge was not connected to the February 1979 injury. The district court affirmed the commissioner's ruling, finding it was supported by substantial evidence. See Iowa Code §17A.19(8)(f).

Our scope of review in this agency proceeding is not de novo. Iowa Code §17A.20 (1987); Dickenson v. John Deere Prods. Eng'g, 395 N.W.2d 644, 646 (Iowa App. 1986). The commissioner's findings have the effect of a jury verdict; they are binding on appeal unless a contrary result is demanded as a matter of law. Doerfer Div. of CCA v. Nicol, 359 N.W.2d 428, 432 (Iowa 1984). We review the decision of the district court, also rendered in an appellate capacity, to determine whether the district court applied the law correctly. Dickenson, 395 N.W.2d at 646.

With these principles in mind, we affirm the district court's judgment affirming the commissioner's ruling. The commissioner's finding that claimant's

discharge in March 1983 was unrelated to his February 1979 injury is supported by substantial evidence in the record.

AFFIRMED.