

discussed them earlier. It's all in the amendments that Senator Lindsay, Senator Hall, Senator Will have offered. And this is really the final solution. This is the solution that states if you choose not to care about your employee enough that there is a serious danger in the workplace, then you certainly are not entitled to the protection that workers' compensation is afforded to you. Now it's assuming here, first off, that the employer has knowledge of the inherent or serious hazard or danger. He has knowledge of it because the safety committee has come together, both the employer and the employee, and made a recommendation to that employer and he has taken the advice or has chosen to disregard this inherent danger which we assume has resulted in the serious injury to that employee. Now how many employers will this affect? Probably very, very few. I guess I'm naive enough to believe that that employer cares a great deal about those employees in the workplace and they would like to keep those skilled workers in there. But what happens to those minority of employers, those minority of employers that care very little about the safety of the employee? Should they be given the protection that has been afforded to them under the workers' compensation law since 1913? Should we give them that protection from personal liability upon himself or herself or that company that he manages? I don't think so. I think if he's willing to take the risk then he should be able to pay the price and that's really what it's all about. I can only think of one instance where an employer would totally disregard an imminent danger to his workers and that would be for a profit margin. I can't imagine, in my mind, that someone would have such a callous disregard for an employee that he would get joy or personal satisfaction out of that employee being injured. I would assume that the only reason, the only possible reason why a company would, if a company was aware of a serious or imminent hazard, that they would choose to disregard this serious or imminent hazard for money. And if they want to make a profit, if they want to make this additional profit by risking the lives of those employees, then they should also be willing to risk the liability that comes with this type of profit-making activity. That is the purpose of the amendment. It really goes to the heart of having a safety committee and you have to understand that...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR ABBOD: ...you have to understand that this is a recommendation, a recommendation that has been made by both