

February 19, 1980

LB 319

object to them getting trained, I think they need training, I think they need rehabilitation, I think they need it all, but they do not need to come out into private industry and take the jobs of the working people. When you do that you are doing the one thing that is absolutely wrong in a capitalist free enterprise system to say to the people of this state that you are going to support taking jobs away from working people and giving it to the prisoners. Train them all you want to, put them on public work, anything you want to but do not say to that individual down there in the corner that he is going to lose his job because we are going to bring somebody out from the prison who needs that kind of training. That's all....if you want to do that, go ahead and pass this bill. If you want to say to private enterprise and to the working people of this state, you have the right to work and the man who is in jail has the right to training, but friends let's do what is right by the people of this state.

PRESIDENT: The motion is Senator Keyes' motion to return LB 319 for purposes of striking the enacting clause. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 4 ayes, 27 nays on the motion to return, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Any further motions on the desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers moves to return the bill to Select File for an amendment. The amendment would read: "to require that any confined person who is hired out to private businesses, shall be paid the same wages as other employees doing similar work at the same business locus".

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, the amendment is drafted so that it makes clear that at the work site where the individual is being employed that site is the place where we will determine the amount of that individual's wages. If you accept the principle that once it is established that a certain amount of money should be paid for a certain amount of labor, then you will adopt this amendment. If you don't believe that, I don't think I can sway you or change your mind, so I am not going to take a long time in trying to do that. I do think if the state is going to make this step and allow the Director of Corrections to determine that certain people will be hired out under a contract with the state to work