

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Hall, as...

PRESIDENT: Senator Coordsen, I'm going to interrupt you a moment. (Gavel.) Let's hold it down. The speakers are having trouble hearing each other, and so am I. So, please, appreciate (inaudible).

SENATOR COORDSEN: I could use my hog calling voice, Mr. President, but I think I will not impact the ears of the members of the body at this time. Senator Hall, from your experience in this field, how are part-time employees covered?

SENATOR HALL: I'm sorry, I didn't heard you, Senator.

SENATOR COORDSEN: How are part-time employees covered under worker's compensation, part-time employee injured on the job, making whatever that amount would be, but certainly perhaps less than an average of \$125 a week, or whatever minimum wage figures out on 40 hours?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Coordsen, they would be allowed the minimum amount, if they should fall underneath that. So, if your question is basically, how would my amendment impact an individual who was not working a 40-hour week, they would benefit. That part-time individual would benefit from this amendment because it would increase their two-thirds portion up to that of a full-time employee, because... And my reason for doing that, my rationale, is that they're not injured part-time, they're injured full-time. And in this case, yes, you're absolutely right, they would benefit. The reason for the 49 was to allow for some leeway there for those part-time individuals, but also to have a ceiling that they could not...or, excuse me, a floor that they could not fall through. So, absolutely, the individual that is going to benefit from this provision is an individual who works on a part-time basis but is injured on the job and still eligible for worker's comp benefits.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Okay, thank you, because we generally cover two-thirds of what a person's take-home pay is, or the minimum and I have no idea how many years ago it's been that the \$49 was placed into statute as the floor. Eighty-eight dollars does not sound like very much, except that it's entirely possible, under