

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I've got problems with the whole bill. I just wondered how many of you people out there that have a lot of rural counties have called any of your small businesses to find out if they even know about this bill. I know Senator Hall can talk about Omaha and Lincoln all he wants to but I will give him a trip up through my towns and you will see a lot of boarded up businesses. I can tell you what this bill is. If you're talking about 90 cents for 40 hours times 20,000 people, plus Social Security, you're talking about a \$40 million tax on small businesses in Nebraska. And I think it behooves everyone in here that has a lot of small towns to check with those people to see if they're with you on this bill. I don't think... I don't think this bill has been discussed enough. You can talk about Dairy Queens all you want to. I have a Dairy Queen in Blair that operates 11 months of the year and they would have trouble operating with this. I think we ought to kill the whole thing. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I appreciate Senator Coordsen's amendment and what he is trying to do but I feel I must rise to oppose it. Whenever we start talking unemployment, worker's comp, minimum wage, it always gets put off until the next year. We always end up doing something, having bills introduced and they happen not the year they are introduced, which is usually a couple years too late but the next year or the next year. And when it finally does come up we always say, well, let's phase this in or let's make the hit a little easier on some of these people. And I disagree with Senator Robinson, not in total, but he calls it a \$40 million tax on small business. We're also injecting \$40 million into the economy, however you want to look at it. The majority of my people in my district are working people, blue collar, middle class, lower middle class and a lot of them are working for minimum wage. So I see it a little differently. I guess working for an hourly wage myself, I understand how important this is to a lot of the people in my district. It always boils down to you're going to put some people out of business and we never take a look at the majority of the people