

referred to as a small family farm. The medium-size family farm is just about in the same category. So to try to tie into this bill dealing with the minimum wage the complex problem of agriculture and its demise is a mistake. The two are not related. If you paid people a penny to work in these small towns, you would have the same businesses close paying a penny that are closed now. There are economic forces at work in rural America which are not going to be arrested or turned aside by anything a state legislature does. Agriculture is a part of an international economic system. The laws that are going to have the greatest bearing on agriculture in this county are going to be enacted at the federal level. We do things, we say things, to try to show sympathy and a degree of understanding but the reality that all of us know is that this Legislature cannot rescue agriculture in this state, especially when you consider that probably over 50 percent of the gross income of agriculture in Nebraska comes from direct federal subsidies. Did you hear that, Senator Robinson, those in agriculture get more than 50 percent of their gross income from direct federal subsidies. It is not where they are working and getting that money in exchange. Some people get money for not planting anything; some for planting only so much of certain things in certain areas. Some people are allowed to rent to the government storage facilities on their land to store what they produced and paid not to sell it. They can graze their animals on public land. They can get subsidies through assistance from the university. Everywhere you turn, there is a subsidy for this, a subsidy for that, for certain farm commodities, but not all. That is far removed from a minimum wage bill. All that the worker, who is going to receive a wage, has to sell is his or her labor. This is not, Senator Robinson, a subsidy bill.

PRESIDENT MOLL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This is saying that people who are compelled to take these low paying jobs, often they are difficult, they are dirty, they are dangerous, dead-end jobs, are going to be required to take them and given less than what the stingy federal government, dominated by politicians beholden to special interest groups, have said is the minimum that we will give these people. Senator Robinson, you are a better man than what your words would indicate, and I want to point that out to my colleagues. Senator Robinson is a generous man. Senator Robinson is a righteous man, as far as I know, and I believe that Senator Robinson, after he gives full consideration to what