

will be from 20 to \$40 million cost. I called it a tax. I was told it wasn't a tax. You can call it a tax, you can call it cost of goods sold, you can call it expenses, whatever you want. I think it's a little guys bill. In fact, I'm surprised about the AFL-CIO. I was hoping Senator Chambers would be here so I could chastise him just a little, because you know he always likes to stand up for the little guy like Senator Hall does, but evidently it makes a difference if you run a business instead of work for a business because we're talking about little guys out there trying to scrape and make a living. I have a letter, I received a letter this morning from some people from West Point. I wish all of you would listen. I'm not going to read the entire letter. We employ anywhere from 15 to 18 employees at any given time. Five of these employees are adults and the rest are high school kids. Our high school kids depend on their wages for their spending money, and we rely on them for the labor pool. We will have no alternative but to raise our prices, passing our increased costs on to our customers, plus, I want you to hear this, Senator Hall. Plus, we would have to lay off some employees, and cut back hours for others. Increased wages have a domino effect, and will result in increased payroll taxes, increased unemployment taxes, increased workmen's compensation. We urge you to consider the consequences of this bill when you cast your vote. We ask you to vote against LB 297. After I spoke on this bill in General File, I called three of my towns. Blair is the largest. It has around 7,000 people. Most of my towns are from around 1,200 people. So far I've come up with 16 businesses this would affect. Now hopefully you people have checked with your constituents to see how this affects them. Now that, to me, that's enough people for us to vote for the kill motion, and do away with it. You know, the people from the larger cities, and I have a lot of friends in the body that are from larger cities, but you know it would be interesting...I'd like to see them step out of their shoes, and get into the shoes of some of those small business people. They don't work an eight-hour day, they work 12, 15 hours a day trying to scrape a living. I think it's very important because it makes a lot of difference in our small towns. Sure, I'd like to see everyone make \$15 an hour, but that doesn't happen. That doesn't happen in Oakland, Nebraska; that doesn't happen in Lyons, Nebraska; that doesn't happen in Ord, or Falls City, or Schulyer, or Lexington, or Scottsbluff. It's a different world out there, folks. So I would urge you to vote to indefinitely postpone LB 297.