

have a problem meeting minimum wage? Did I think that I could get around it because I didn't meet these federal guidelines or that I should? No. As a matter of fact, I couldn't have hired anybody if I wanted to. Senator Withem just mentioned, he said, I was driving down the street the other day and McDonalds had a sign up said, now hiring, \$5.50 an hour. Granted, that's in Omaha, Nebraska. This bill isn't limited to every area of the state except for Omaha, and Lincoln, because my businesses qualified under the state minimum wage. I could have paid whatever it was at those point in time. I could pay it right now if I chose to because I meet those qualifications right now, under half a million dollars, under ten employees. It works. I can say, you're going to make less than whatever the federal government allows. I'm not going to do that. Most employers don't do that. Most employers don't know that they can't pay the federal government minimum wage. That's what they don't know, Senator Robinson, not that this bill is here. They don't know that they have the ability to pay less.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: That's the issue. There's a domino effect. There's a domino effect anytime you pour more money in the economy. And most people would tell you, most economists would tell you that the domino effect is a positive one because it's not an issue of who gets the money, frankly, in a small business. I mean it is an issue of who gets the money, not if the money is there because what happens as I said, I pay it out to the employees. It's just that much less I take home. Thank God, my wife has a job, but the issue here is one of fairness, and do we feel that we should protect the employees of the State of Nebraska as well as the federal government protects the vast majority of employees of this state because they happen to be working for an employer who meets their definition of what an employer is.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Time.

SENATOR HALL: I say we should, and I would urge you to vote no on this motion to kill the bill.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Before we go to our next speaker I'd like to announce that Senator Dennis Byars has three guests in the south balcony, Leroy Bast, Alvin Bast and Steve Stapualis all from Fairbury. Thank you, folks, for