

instantly or so on on this floor. I have no problem with 4.25. My McDonalds, my Wendy's and so on, they're not going to get help any less than 4.25. That's not a problem in Grand Island, Nebraska. It may be in some other areas. That's not going to put anybody out of business. It's simply only going to be fair for those kids that maybe work 4, or 6 hours a day, or 2 hours a day, to buy that \$1.15 or 20 cent tax. I'll tell you what's going to hit those small businesses a lot harder, and, Senator Robinson, you were after me, and after me to get this bill out of Retirement Committee and so on, a buyback. People that are now making 25, 30, 35,000, \$40,000 a year, we have to come back in, and do you know how much that bill costs my school district? Parts of that, \$260,000. That's taxes that my small business people pay and now you're talking about paying these kids a little minimal amount. These kids are willing to get out there and work, and work for a living. I have a bill coming up in another day, tomorrow, that addresses kids, kids at risk, and so on, and the money. But it's funny where our priorities are, and how excited we can get. I see another bill coming down the pipeline, maybe, \$20 million, \$36 million. That's another 1,100, \$1,200 or \$1,300 that is tax money to my taxpayers up and down the street and taxpayers to those small business people. This is a minimal amount. Most of them are paying over and above that now. It's sure funny where our priorities can be and how concerned that we can be about that poor taxpayer one minute, and the next minute we'll give it away by the millions. It just kind of perturbs me.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Wesely is our next speaker.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members, I, too, would rise in support of the bill, understanding the concerns of small business, understanding that the legitimate points that Senator Robinson and Senator Hefner have raised. Nevertheless, looking at it from the viewpoint of the employee, of that individual out there trying to work a job and earn a decent living, and having them be able to bring back a little bit higher pay than the three dollar, some cents an hour that they are now getting, bring it all the way up to \$4.25 still an inadequate wage, but certainly better than the certain circumstance that we have now. I think really what the whole issue comes back to, and I understand that we have concern about the small business, and the small employer, and we have exemptions out there, but I think Senator Hall hit it right.