

of employees as a requirement of federal law. Would you share with me where that information came from, please.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Coordsen, the federal requirement, I believe, is that the exemption is for 10 employees. It's very...I think it's the reason you drafted your amendment the way you have which follows, if I'm not mistaken, but then I could be. But that's my understanding of what the federal exemption allows for in addition to the...the change that was made went to 10 employees and it raised the level to, I think, a...or the minimum to half a million dollars in terms of gross receipts.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Hall. Well, far be it for me to argue with you. I'm not aware of any requirement in federal law although there may be one. Just from what information I have, federal minimum wage applies to people in interstate commerce and those who gross \$500,000 or more, or a combination of the two. I know there is a four-employee limit or level before this current state minimum wage comes into effect. But, be that as it may, I think that Senator Robinson addresses a good issue, I do, that says, as Senator Hall mentioned, have another amendment that would raise the level. I have had...and I'm not opposed to increasing the minimum wage level to four and a quarter, by and large, but I have a great fear that in some areas of the...our economy that it may simply reduce the number of job opportunities for people in some of the communities. Now, minimum wage has an effect on what's paid but what has an effect more on what is paid to employers, beginning or otherwise...employees, beginning or otherwise, is, in fact, the labor supply in a given area. We give great deal of lip service to young people and older people and whatever. I would rather suspect that in Lincoln, Nebraska and Omaha, Nebraska that the imposition of the federal minimum wage this past April 1st had really no impact because of a tight labor market. But you move into other areas, that luxury isn't enjoyed by the employee and rather there is a substantial amount of competition for whatever amount of jobs at the rates that are available. And if you're trying to find a job, a summer job, or whatever else, quite frankly, what happens with employees who are limi...or employers who are limited on their opportunity to grow in gross sales in order to cover increased labor costs is a reduction in the hours of the employees. They may pay more per hour but simply be less people employed in that particular business than what might have been under another...under another