

set of wage requirements. I think that Senator Robinson's amendment is...is reasonable in the inflationary days that we live in. It's quite probable that very few businesses could survive that didn't gross more than \$275,000. I believe, Senator Robinson, that is the figure in your amendment, \$275,000. So we're talking about scattered throughout the state some limited number of employers who may or may not be providing beginning employment for inexperienced workers. I would encourage the return to Select File for consideration of the Robinson amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Chambers, you're next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I join Senator Hall in opposing this motion to return LB 297. When I was downstairs listening to Senator Robinson and I didn't have on my intercom, I heard his voice thundering and echoing down the corridors and right into my room, I decided I better come up here because he's talking about young people out in his area working to earn spending money. What we're talking about in a lot of instances are adults trying to earn enough money to scrape by and take care of themselves and their families. In a country like this one, it's too bad that the government must impose a minimum wage to prevent a situation from arising where people are virtual serfs or sharecroppers or any of the other categories of workers who, because they are in a very disadvantaged position, have no power to do anything to see that they are treated fairly. When Senator Robinson asked where the lobby for the young people is, Senator Hall answered him correctly, we are, those of us who are trying to ensure that young people who work are given a fair return for their labor. We're supposed to be inculcating values in these young people as they grow up. And if we talk to them about working, they do not see value in work just because they have an opportunity to expend energy and get tired, do something that is onerous, dirty, heavy and low in pay. You're supposed to connect working to the achievement of a goal that is worthwhile and there has to be more in the way of providing a goal than saying the person for whom you're working is going to make a lot of money and you make nothing. You have to show that there is a fair return for the labor expended, otherwise a young person, if he or she is intelligent, if he or she takes advantage of the education that we claim the schools are giving them, such young people will look for other opportunities to obtain money. And there are a