

January 30, 1995 LB 20

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I'd like to ask Senator Chambers a couple of questions if I might.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Chambers, I obviously didn't vote for this bill coming out of committee for a couple of reasons that I talked to you about. One of them has to do with the part that talks about the possibility that somebody wasn't able to speak the English language correctly or couldn't speak the English language. Would there be a possibility of discrimination against those people for employment because the fact that people who could speak the language would have a better chance of being employed?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That issue, Senator Vrtiska, does not even come up. It doesn't because a lot of these jobs, since they can recruit people, and misrepresent what it is will pay a very low wage and people in the areas where these companies are working generally do not accept these jobs. Some may, but in some communities they need such a large influx of people to work in these plants because there wouldn't be enough local people anyway, that the recruitment is going to occur. So there is not an issue of discriminating against people because they don't speak English, if that was your question.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay, the second question that I have and the one that I need some clarification on is you talk about 10 percent non-English speaking people, you'd have to employ an interpreter, is that right?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: An interpreter would be provided and that could be a person already working with the company who is bilingual.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I understand that but you said it has to be 10 percent. If it's only 9 percent, they don't have to employ?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right. That is the threshold, 10 percent.

SENATOR VRTISKA: So if a company hired a number of non-English