

wax here to indicate that they are serious about their bill. And it seems to me that even though we don't want punitive damages, and even though there may be some refinements advisable to Section 5, probably not any...maybe not any refinements necessary to Section 5, if Senator Matzke's amendment is then adopted with Senator Chambers' amendment, but it seems to me that at the very least, if we are going to be honest with people about what we are doing, that we really do mean this...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that we ought to leave an effective enforcement mechanism in the bill, and that is what you would have if you had Senator Chambers' amendment to Matzke's amendment, and then Matzke's was adopted. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I think we need to put everything into perspective here this morning, and the last couple of days. We need to think about Nebraska, and Nebraska's economy. Fifty percent of Nebraska's ag economy is beef. We are known across the world as the Beef State. The meat packing plants are an essential part of that beef industry, and meat packing, unfortunately, is a labor intensive business. They don't want to go outside their immediate area if they can obtain workers to work in those plants. And so the meat packing plants then need to be where the beef is. We can take all these meat packing plants and we can move them down to Texas where the workers are, but, unfortunately, there is about a thousand miles of transportation that would have to be picked up, and that cost is going to cause a reduction in the price of beef, if that is where it has to go. We need to remember that old adage that was used in advertising some years ago, where's the beef? The beef is in Nebraska. The meat packing plants need to be in Nebraska. The meat packing plants are an essential part of that industry. In Omaha we have a new plant that is under construction that will have eight to nine hundred employees. The average salary of those employees will be in excess of \$20,000 a year. Those benefits also include health, dental, optical, life, retirement, paid vacation, and holidays. It is not a bad job. Yes, they will start out at eight and a half to nine dollars an hour but they will increase. Also that plant will be able to handle 2,000 head of cattle per day, 2,000 head of cattle that are going to