

I need just a couple minutes to bring you up on what we call our task force for more jobs in prison. We've got a lot of people in private business involved and we have those private interest groups that Senator Witek talked about who are part of this task force too because I believe in bringing them all into the same room so we don't have to fight it out later and decide what we're going to do as far as the jobs. On our task force, Gordie McDonald serves on there from the AFL-CIO. There's already laws, federal laws that says we can't lay off anybody in the area from jobs to make other jobs available in the prison. But I know, people, that there are jobs out there and some day I'm hoping that we're going to get more of them in the prison. We've got people interested. We've got a lot of people in business that are willing to give their time. For the time being, we've got quite a few more orders coming into the Cornhusker State Industries so we're keeping more prisoners busy building furniture, making paint and the license plates and things that are ordered in that area. The Cornhusker State Industries pays somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1.30 an hour, and we don't pay taxes and we don't pay room and board out of that but if we get these people into private industry, we've got a win-win situation and that's what I'm looking for is a private venture to come into the prisons, any private venture, and the prison has been very aggressive in this part already, and we've got a good task force, and any of you that want to be part of that or anybody of you that are listening at home and watching this on TV, if we put these people to work in private venture, we pay them what's called a prevailing wage and somewhere in the neighborhood of a...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: ...third of that goes back to the state for room and board. They pay for their keep while they're there. Another, close to a third of it, goes home for spousal and child support, restitution, victimization programs and fines, and also then they have...they can save some so they have more than \$100 gate pay so they have something to start on. We've got therapeutic things going there. We've got money that they're paying their way there. It can work. And I'm very aggressively working to get this kind of thing done, along with a lot of other people, and the prisons were already working on it before I came. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Jensen,