

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 15, 1999 LB 608

decision.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler, Senator Matzke. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to indefinitely postpone the bill. Senator Matzke, you'd have the option to lay it over if you were so inclined, Senator.

SENATOR MATZKE: I want to proceed with the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open on your motion to indefinitely postpone LB 608.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I hope you will think very carefully about this. If the information that has been presented to us on the floor is correct, and I assume it is, then you must know immediately that this is a bill that has much, much broader implications than just the plant's shutdown situation and the response to the court case, which constituted most of the discussion up until this point in time. This bill, if the example was correct that I gave, would mean this with regard to all employees across the state. It would mean that if you're an employee and you've gone along and accumulated some paid vacation because you've worked there long enough and you've earned that paid vacation, and then you get fired or lose your job and, under the law, you're entitled...otherwise entitled to unemployment compensation, then in that situation they're going to prorate and deduct any paid vacation you have from that right to recover unemployment insurance. If your fellow employee was terminated at the same time, but happened to have used their paid vacation entirely before that point in time, they would have no deduction whatsoever. You're creating inequities between situations and not only are you creating inequities but you're doing it on the basis that that vacation hasn't been earned when, I think, in the mind of every employee that I know, if they've worked the certain amount of time that the company says you have to work in order to earn a day of vacation, once you have worked that period of time that day of vacation...of paid vacation is earned. I think that's the common understanding of our society. So how is it then that we're going to change the law to say if