

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

March 15, 1999 LB 608

work on the line, so to speak, and in the factory treated the same as the people who work in the front office in this case? In other words, if the people who work on the line on that equipment and apparently can't work as long as it's being taken apart and cleaned and whatever, no longer can be...no longer are working so they would like to have something coming in, whatever it might be, so they can survive. Are the office staff laid off at the same time? Since they're in a line staff, manufacturing, anything at all, are the people who work in the offices kept on the job or do they get to take off at the same time, and are they continuing...do they continue to get paid?

SENATOR MATZKE: Well, the only thing I can say is, I've read some of these cases and in one case one of the plaintiffs was an engineer who, I assume, was an office type person, but I, in all honesty, I...

SENATOR LYNCH: I see.

SENATOR MATZKE: ...other than that one case, I can't give you any definite information.

SENATOR LYNCH: Okay. So the possibility exists that a company would continue to pay everybody in the company when they closed it down except for the people, the poor stiffs, that worked on the line. Thanks, Senator Matzke. Yeah, I can...as I sat here and listened I tried not to get too involved saying anything that might not be true or further complicating the issue, but it could be one of those selfish issues, in a sense. For example, if you go to work for somebody and you've determined your benefits and part of those benefits are in fact...includes...includes vacation pay, it's interesting that if you work on the line you have to use that benefit and vacation pay, if you work in the office, even though the plant's closed down, you don't have to. You don't even have to be laid off. You can continue to do something in the office, I assume. But then, on the other hand, you see, if you're laid off through no fault of your own but because simply company policy, health department rules, whatever it might be, closes the plant down and forces you not to be able to work, why should you be treated any differently than those people that work in the office? You should be able to, if you decide to take your vacation, vacation