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Transcriber's Office

March 21, 2000 LB 936

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR MATZKE: ...have worked on over the last two years hoping to come up with a program...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR MATZKE: ...that would give the smaller counties, the mid-size counties, the 70 counties that have not benefited an incentive to increase...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Matzke, your time has expired.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Coordsen, on the committee amendments. (AM2736, Legislative Journal page 1025.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm going to touch on the committee amendments. I would have to share with you that I suppose clean-up, technical for the most part, is what the committee amendments are about. There will be several I think that might generate some discussion, so we'll just go right down the list. First of all, the committee amendments require...remove the requirement that new employees be Nebraska residents to qualify the company for benefits. Two, it allows companies leasing employees instead of directly employ them to qualify for benefits. Three, in many, many, many places it inserts the word "wages" along with employment and investment, because that is one of the minimum...one of the qualification levels. Four, it allows cooperatives to qualify for the benefit of the act. One of the...one of the...probably the larger changes that the committee amendment makes is based upon, I think you have in front of you, Senator Matzke's handout of how low some of the wage rates are, average wage rates in some of the counties, so the committee decided to recommend that 125 percent of the average annual wage in the county...change that to the greater of either that or 100 percent of the average annual wage in the region. The definitions divide the state into seven regions. These are the ones used by Department of Labor: Omaha, Lincoln,