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these issues rests with us,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...as members of the Legislature, but it is designed to be a tool that you can use to assist you in making a decision. And it is in that spirit that I hope it does become useful to you. There are two gentlemen who are quite familiar with both of the studies sitting under the balcony, so if you have had a chance to read them, and if you have questions about how the studies were conducted or what they may mean to you, as a policymaker, please feel free to visit with them. Mr. Don Yelick and Mr. Mike Calvert are the two gentlemen that I would recommend to you sitting under the north balcony.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. (Doctor of the day introduced.) On the Beutler amendment, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. It's a very interesting discussion and I want to also stand in support of Senator Beutler's amendment, and as Senator Wickersham says, talk about some of the other issues that have been raised during this discussion. I sat through this bill in Revenue Committee and we sat through the Exec Session in trying to bring it out. One of the things I wanted to bring out for you a little bit is that if you look at that chart that was handed out this morning by Senator Matzke with all the counties listed and the regions that they come from, and you look at the average wages, with this act those wages will be...there's a requirement what those wages will be, and the requirement is that they are either 125 percent of the annual county wage or 125 percent of the regional average wage, so whichever is higher. So this would allow those people to go to work in these counties to receive 125 percent of whichever is higher, the annual county wage or the annual regional wage, which I think is a bonus, and which is certainly an advantage to the very rural, very underserved part of our state. You've heard me talk so much about rural economic development, the necessity to keep...keep farmers on the farm. The way we're going to be able to do that is to find jobs for their wives and some of their children as part-time survival on those farms. Senator Chambers struck a chord with me when he said he'd rather