

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

March 23, 2000 LB 936

and several segments of that bill have been implemented over the years, although the bill did not pass that year. The reason I really support this bill because in rural Nebraska most people would like to stay there, if they could afford to stay there. They cannot afford to stay there if they don't have jobs, especially if they don't have good-paying jobs. And so, therefore, I think it's very, very necessary that we do pass this bill. And as far as the...those industries that are qualified for this is basically the same as they were in LB 425. As far as Senator Chambers talking about we do not...this bill does not take in restaurants. Well, restaurants and other retail establishments will prosper if there are jobs, people making an income so they can...they can cater to those other businesses, such as restaurants and other retail stores, et cetera, but without good-paying jobs, they will not prosper. If they do prosper, then they, in themselves, can pay better wages to attract...to attract workers. And I think that the whole situation here is if you do start with good paying jobs, like in Senator Matzke's bill with 125 percent over, then through competition for the labor force, others will be...also be forced to raise their salaries then because of the shortage of the labor force. So I think it is just a win-win-win situation all the way through. So I do...I do definitely support the bill and I think Senator Raikes probably has a good idea. The only difference between his and Senator Matzke's, I understand Senator Matzke's at this point in time. So with that, I would, again I definitely support the bill and would like to see it pass, and I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Matzke.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Did you yield your time to Senator Matzke, Senator Engel?

SENATOR ENGEL: Yes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, I have passed out a rather complex handout here which gives you the statistics, if you want to look at specific counties. I would point out one thing that was called to my attention by Senator Beutler. He wanted to know what the average wage was statewide, and it's