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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: No, I just didn't want you to waste a speaking opportunity. Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the body. The amendment that Senator Chambers is discussing pertains to what is defined as a qualified business for the purposes of this act. On page 4, the committee amendments..of the committee amendments qualified...it states, "qualified business does not include any business in which 80 percent or more of the total sales or sales to the ultimate consumer of food prepared for immediate consumption". Now, why the 80 percent? There are some employers, of course, who provide cafeterias and that type of thing for employees and customers. This exclusion really excludes from the bill and from the benefits under the bill businesses such as McDonald's and other franchises, because there's no need and there is no intention under this bill to grant incentives to McDonald's to come to Nebraska. Now you immediately would raise the question about the average annual wage, which could be, under this bill you'd have to pay something in the area of \$20,000. Well, there are very few home town restaurants or small town restaurants, I suppose none of them who would meet that criteria. So, if you delete this, the only people who would meet the criteria would be the McDonald's. I have specific knowledge of one McDonald's store in western Nebraska that produces a profit of over \$1 million a year for its two owners. Now that business would qualify, if Senator Chambers is successful in striking this exclusion. Is that what we want to do? In other words, you've got a McDonald's store with two owners that makes \$1 million a year, so you'll have two owners that are making \$500,000 a year, they could take their employees and they could divide that out, and they could come in above the approximate \$20,000 payment and they would qualify under this bill. No other restaurant would qualify because they do not earn that kind of money. So I think that this amendment is really counterproductive and that Senator Chambers should analyze it from that standpoint, that instead of benefitting restaurant employees, all it would benefit is the rich. And I, frankly, this bill was not designed to induce McDonald's or any other franchise that is that successful, but McDonald's is really the premiere franchiser in the world and certainly one of the most profitable in the proper location.