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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Members of the Legislature, these wages are low. If the wages are not low in rural Nebraska, everything we've been hearing has been misleading. We've been told that the standards, the wages are different, about \$8,000 greater on the average in the city than in rural Nebraska, so people are not being paid as much in rural Nebraska. I look out there and I say I can pay cheaper wages here based on the law. So I'm going to open my garment factory out there...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and have people produce garments cheaper here in rural Nebraska than would be the case if my factory was located someplace else. This is designed to lure companies with the offering of the ability to pay low wages and give no benefits. That's why I say this is not a bill to help the workers. And as for the amendment that I'm offering here, Senator Smith brought up an operation or activity in rural Nebraska I hadn't even thought of, the tourism aspect of it, where maybe the only thing they're actually selling is food; that's the only thing that they're selling, 80 percent of the sales, if more than that level is reached you can't qualify under this bill. You ought to strike this language and then let somebody show where it's hurting what the bill is designed to do in rural Nebraska. And I don't think that showing can be made.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. For discussion on the Chambers amendment, Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Chambers, I'd like to respond to your evaluation because I think it's erroneous. This is not a cheap salary bill. If you look at the exhibit I handed out, it lists, in the right-hand column, the minimum salary, minimum wages that would have to be paid to qualify, and that's in the \$19,000 area. In fact for Arthur County it's \$19,694. This is not a cheap labor bill. Now, if you want to divide that by the number of hours in a work year, this bill provides a minimum of \$9.46 an hour. Now you say you want to see the minimum wage raised, so do I. Both of us want to eliminate the disparity between highly paid people and poorly paid people. This bill affectively raises the minimum wage and