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any qualification under this bill to \$9.46 an hour. That is a gigantic leap forward, which I think you and I actually ought to agree on is beneficial. This is not a bill designed to let businesses out of Omaha come to Oshkosh, or Valentine, or Thedford and hire people cheaply. They can't qualify unless they pay a minimum average wage of over \$19,000 a year. This is a jobs bill that will, as Senator Brashear hit the nail on the head this morning when he said this raises the bar for employment in the 70 nonmetropolitan counties of this state. So to say that, as you have, that this is a cheap employment bill is absolutely erroneous.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Schimek, on the Chambers amendment to the committee amendments to LB 936.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise again in support of the bill and would like to just echo a little bit what Senator Matzke said. I finally, it's finally really dawning on my how significant this bill could be. And, Senator Chambers, I think the discussion that was just had about the absolute lowest bar here at what wages would be, that is a wonderful opportunity for us to see that some better wages are paid in rural areas. I think, like Senator Matzke, that it is going to give us the opportunity, not only to create some jobs in some of these rural areas, but it will also give us the opportunity to begin raising the other wages in the area as well. And as Senator Jensen and I were just discussing, you know, maybe part of the underlying philosophy here is to get some more equity between the rural areas and the metropolitan areas in this state. So the more I hear about this bill, the more I like it. And I don't think I'll support your amendment, Senator Chambers. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we all know that an average is arrived at by taking all of the elements that are going to be involved, adding them together, reaching a total, then dividing that total by whatever number you need to average that out. But we know that there may