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full employment. But certainly there were probably some personnel issues and labor issues involved, even though it didn't have anything to do with a slaughterhouse, so to speak. And I think that the Bromm amendment gets to the root of the problem, and I can support the committee amendment only if the Bromm amendment is adopted. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I would just like to give you some information this morning as far as the discussion that was yesterday that Senator Landis had given us about the wages that were given to the packing plants. He had in his discussion said we went from \$15 an hour to \$8 an hour. And I want to give you some information that has to do with the packing plant that's very close to my district, and it's the Excel plant at Schuyler. This plant employs, you know, 2,260 people, and there's been 1,000 employees added since 1992. The base wage is \$10.30 an hour, and this is for the production line, and that will increase 20 cents in the next month. But the big issue that I want to bring to your attention right now, the annual average hourly salary at the Schuyler plant of Excel is \$28,990. This is the average hourly salary. So that is a very good salary, in my opinion. It does...the plant there, the slaughtering plant, does have a lot of economic impact. It processes 1.2 million cattle per year; \$1 billion worth of cattle are procured within 100 miles of Schuyler. And that would be mostly all from Nebraska. And last year, Nebraska became the leading state for commercial cattle harvested in the United States, with the Nebraska plants accounting for more than 20 percent of the US total. And 7.9 million head was in Nebraska, and Kansas was second with 7.4 million. There's another portion to this that I think has got a lot of economic value to it. And the reason that we have that plant here in Nebraska is because of the added value for agriculture. Of this \$1 billion worth of cattle that was processed by Schuyler, 100 loads, truckloads, go to Mexico each month; 60 loads go to Canada; 60 truckloads go to Japan. And there's new markets emerging. Another issue that I have is what Cargill...Cargill is...and Excel, they're in the same ownership...what the significant contributions to Nebraska are.