

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

March 25, 2003 LB 608

ideas that is minimally acceptable to me. We'll see if it's minimally acceptable to you. If it is, we can go forward; if not, we can live with the results of defeating this amendment, going to the underlying amendment, which I'll be delighted to vote for because I like it better, but I doubt that will be successful, and then we'll live with whatever that outcome is. I'll ask for the adoption of this amendment. Understand, it takes away the health benefit issue that Senator Engel is concerned about, because it strikes the provision with respect to a wage differential on the basis of health benefits, which is what Senator Bourne was concerned about. It's my best attempt to write something that we could live with. If we can do it, great. If we can't, defeat this amendment. Let's go to the committee amendment and let's live with the fate of this bill. This is our third day. Can't we call the question a little bit long here and take some action? We've talked a lot, haven't we?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Stuthman, did you wish to address AM0969?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: I...yes, Madam Chair and members of the body. I do not have my total thoughts together as far as this amendment is concerned at the present time, but I just wanted to make a few comments. As my past eight years working on the county board level, we dealt with wages. We dealt with situations where formulas were brought to us from very many...from a lot of other cities, counties, other jurisdictions as far as the salaries that were paid for the elected officials. We tried to put that together and come up with a realistic figure that should be adopted for our elected officials, but it's really, really hard. What we have done in our local county is we have made the suggestion that we will pay what it takes to hire individuals to do the job, and that's, I think, the thing that I stand behind. I am not in favor of setting a blanket policy, as far as minimum wages are set. A company or corporation that wants to come to your city or your town, what they're going to do is they're going to see the availability of workers and the amount of dollars it's going to take to get these people to come to work. I think that's the issue. I am kind of disturbed about some of the arguments between rural and urban. I have always had in mind, you know, we're in Nebraska,