

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

April 2, 2003 LB 210

income by bringing in cattle from another state or from people in the eastern part of the state to take care of, that portion of their business takes on a commercial flavor. Now, under this test, unless that amount of income were more than 40 percent, they wouldn't be subjected to the requirements of the workers' compensation law, so it does allow them to have some supplemental income without throwing their entire operation and the cost of doing business into the rates of commercial workers' compensation insurance. I am told, as we stand here today, that the last insurance company willing to provide workers' compensation insurance for livestock operators has announced that they are pulling out of the state. That means that anyone procuring workers' compensation insurance for the livestock business will have to go under the...

SENATOR SCHIMEK PRESIDING

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SPEAKER BROMM: ...into the risk pool. I am told that the rate for that will be somewhere, right now, in the neighborhood of \$13 to \$14 per hundred of wages. That is a 13 to 14 percent cost of your wages of doing business. And I'll talk a little bit more about this later, but the minimum wage is not even on the horizon or on the...that isn't even in the realm of possibility when you're talking about hiring people to do the kind of very responsible jobs that we're talking about: handling equipment that's worth a quarter million dollars, one piece of equipment; caring for livestock and mixing a ration properly for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of livestock and if you mix it improperly and you have a death ratio that exceeds the norm you're subject to a lawsuit.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Beutler, you are next to speak.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, I'd let you finish, if you