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FLOOR DEBATE

April 15, 2003      LB 435

Senator Quandahl. Senators Brashear, Cudaback, Wehrbein, Quandahl. Members, the question before us is whether we shall cease debate on FA1309. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 1280.) 29 ayes, 12 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BROMM: Debate is ceased. Senator Foley, you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Just to review where we all are, Senator Beutler has brought us a bill that raises the minimum wage twice. On October 1 this year, it raises it to \$5.80. Then, the following April, it raises it again to \$6.30. My amendment only implements the first increase and stops there; takes us to \$5.80. It's a start, I think, in the right direction. I think it's fair to business. I think it's at least a step toward fairness, toward the low-scale, low-wage employees. I've had some discussions with supporters of Senator Beutler's bill who said that they might be willing to compromise a little bit off the double increase. Some of those who are opposed to Senator Beutler's bill have told me privately that they might go for a compromise somewhere in the middle, so this is one attempt at reaching a compromise. If it doesn't get 25 votes, we'll continue to talk about the green copy of the bill and perhaps another compromise will emerge. But, for now, I think this is a fair compromise of all of our views. So I ask for the adoption of FA1309. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: You've heard the closing. The question then before us is the adoption of amendment FA1309, the Foley amendment. All in favor vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 15 ayes, 23 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: The amendment is not successful. Next item on the bill, Mr. Clerk. I raise the call.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is by Senator Schimek. Senator Schimek would move to amend the bill.