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FLOOR DEBATE

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(FA1310, Legislative Journal page 1281.)

**SPEAKER BROMM:**      Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

**SENATOR SCHIMEK:** Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I filed this motion because this is a very important issue. This is a priority bill. It is a bill which is going to affect a lot of people and, yet, I see a great rush to stop debate on this bill. There is only, or was only, one amendment filed on this bill, and there were a great many red lights up on that board, and yet this body chose to cut off debate. If you'll notice, some of us rarely ever, ever vote to cut off debate because we think this is a marketplace of ideas. This is where we have the chance to really discuss the issues. I filed this amendment so that we could have more of a chance to discuss this issue. I think it's a critical issue and I'd just like to make a few comments regarding some of the things that have been said on this floor. Incidentally, and this is only incidentally, the amendment changes, in line 8, \$5.80 per hour to \$6.00 per hour. I raise the amount 20 cents. And I raise the amount because I think what we're talking about here in the first place is a pretty "piddly" amount. It's probably not going to lift anybody out of poverty. Somebody said that and, no, it's probably not going to lift anybody out of poverty. But a few nickels and dimes here and there, over the course of a day and a week and a month, are going to add up for somebody who is in poverty, and these people who are living entirely on minimum wage are living in poverty. Senator Erdman, I can't help but say something about property taxes, and this is sort of a side issue, but property taxes aren't necessarily going to go up because valuations are going to go up. Property taxes are going to go up because city governments and county governments are increasing taxes in budgets in their communities, and because the Legislature is not going to send out as much in state aid to local subdivisions and school districts as it has in the past. That's why property taxes are going to go up for the average person. The argument about kids not needing money reminds me of the argument about teacher salaries that we had on this floor, not last year or the year before that. This was back some time in about 1993, I believe, and there was a big push by the state