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SENATOR CHAMBERS: We know they wouldn't, don't we, because we see them opposing changes that would spread the reach of workers' comp. Isn't that true?

SENATOR BURLING: I...I guess.

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler. Excuse me, Senator Beutler. I have an announcement first. (Visitors introduced.) Chair recognizes Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler, this would be your third time on this amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Senator Bromm, thank you very much. It's been an interesting discussion. And, Senator Cunningham, when you get to the microphone again, I thought you said, in the dialogue with Senator Chambers, that Wal-Mart pays less than small businesses, the small businesses they're competing with, and if in fact they are paying less then, in order to meet a new minimum wage standard, the small businesses they compete with would have to increase less than Wal-Mart would and, therefore, it would seem to me that your competitive position with the Wal-Mart's of the world ought to be improved, if that's the way the structure is out there right now. But I wanted to go back to the point of how far, how deep in poverty people, families, can still be when they're out there working 40 hours a week and making these wages that are not living wages, are not self-sustaining wages, but are wages far below those particular levels. You know, jobs were supposed to be a bridge out of poverty, and in some cases, many cases hopefully, they are. But in a good many cases, they're not. Three point five million workers worked full-time in 1999, yet they and their families lived in poverty. Let me read a couple of other things to you that I thought were of interest. The 2001 U.S. Conference of Mayors, not a particularly subjective group, I wouldn't think, to one side or another, found that 37 percent of adults seeking emergency food were employed. Officials in 63 percent of the