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FLOOR DEBATE

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CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think at long last we're to the end of this, and I thank you again for the...what I thought was a very intelligent debate on the subject. Obviously, we are a very split body on this issue, and obviously I think the majority in here wants further time to consider this. And so what I would like to suggest to you is that you vote to advance the bill to Select File, and if you are willing to do that, I, for my part, will not...will be sure that the bill advances no further this session. I will also take it upon myself to make a fairly sophisticated exploration of our minimum wage law here in Nebraska and include in that some who are skeptical about the minimum wage. And I think there are several different aspects of it that we might thoughtfully look at, including, for example, the training wage provision, the vocational school provision, how the whole law relates to young people, especially those who are not yet adults. Might look at the level of the minimum wage as compared to living standards here versus living standards elsewhere, and there are additional aspects to look at, that might include the idea of dependency and the categories of people who are most affected. So if you would be willing to do that, I would be willing to take that on. Meanwhile, we can see what happens at the federal level. You know, a kind of interesting debate is going on at the federal level, as I understand it. It's not just a debate about whether they should increase it now or later, but it's a debate that's turning into something like should we do it or should the states do it. And at some point in time, the Congress has to make up its mind about where the regulation is going to be in this area. That would be helpful to us all, I'm sure. So, in any event, if we held it over for the session, for the interim, we would be able to have further information on what the federal government intends to do, so obviously there are a number of advantages to doing that. I wouldn't choose to do that. I feel very strongly about the fact that a large number of people are so adversely affected by this eroding away of the standard, and by the fact that the taxpayer is burdened by the eroding away of the