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LB 608

this road we are probably going to get nothing done with this bill this year because we'll simply...I doubt we will be able to address all the areas that will be opened up. Sometimes you take what you can do and you promise to fight another day. And I think that's probably what we will wind up doing. I have spent probably more time on the bad actor provision than any other single provision that I've been involved with, well, with one exception in this legislative session, but it has commanded quite a bit of time. And I think we've made a lot of progress on it, and I'm prepared to introduce a bill on that issue next year and intend to do so and continue to work on it. I'm not alarmed at not being able to do what Senator Beutler is suggesting. I did support, as I recall, the wage levels that were in the...in LB 608 from General File. But I pulled out the LB 775 annual report for 2002 and I've looked at the average salary of new employees by industry group, which I think is pretty good information, actually. And I find that the estimated average salary of new employees in a construction area is \$13.25, \$27,682 annually. In the machinery, transportation, miscellaneous manufacturing area, it's \$18. Meat and food products, which I assume would be...would include the packing industry is \$15. And another category that could include some of the meat jobs is \$11.20. And in other areas, such as publishing, data processing, railroads, trucking, warehousing, those are all significantly higher than that. So are we really accomplishing something by adopting the Beutler amendment other than to upset the possibility of getting this bill done and start the auction as Landis calls it? I think not. I think it doesn't help us with any of the goals we'd like to achieve to improve accountability in LB 775 and assure ourselves that we are doing something that is overall better for the state of Nebraska than harmful. It doesn't do anything to further those objectives. Again, making sure we fund the position in the Department of Revenue that I asked Senator Raikes questions about, that is a must. That is a positive. Getting this possibility of encouraging some economic development in some of the smaller most rural counties that it's in this bill, that is a positive. Many are disappointed that we can't do more than that this year including myself. But next year will be another year and perhaps there will be a senator priority bill designation somewhere and some ideas that are brought together,