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FLOOR DEBATE

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to do with the fact that you all are here. It has everything to do with me. Madam President, members of the Legislature, there are people who profess to be concerned about working people. Now this division of the question we're on deals with the 13-week disqualification, and where are they? In the lounge somewhere, maybe mooching off the lobbyists, getting a little jump on "Captain Lunch-hunter." "Captain Lunch-hunter" for Senator Mike Foley...not Mike Foley, I'm sorry, Senator Friend's benefit, "Captain Lunch-hunter" is not the one who provides the meals that are sponged. "Captain Lunch-hunter" is what I'd use to designate the senators who do the sponging. So "Captain Lunch-hunter" is not going to come and clear the Chamber. Senators assuming the role of "Captain Lunch-hunter" will clear the Chamber. This bill is going to be in limbo for awhile. All that's going to happen today, and you're observing it happen, is that time will pass until we adjourn for the day. Then there will be the opportunities for people who have interest in this bill to talk about it and see what can be done. I do this explaining so that those who may not be aware of the dynamics of how this body operates will have a little better idea, and that is not said only with the new senators in contemplation. We have some people here older than dirt--although they haven't been here as long as I've been here--who don't know anything about how the Legislature operates. They don't understand the dynamics, they don't know what's going on other than that a lot of time is being spent on a bill. And because they have a short attention span and they need to rest at regular intervals and eat at regular intervals, say every 15 minutes or so, they simply cannot stay here. They don't look at the issue, they look at how much time it's going to take, in the same way that some newspapers look at how much space is available to determine the length of a story, not the importance of the story. So I'm going to take the rest of the time, as much of it as is needed...as much as is needed. And one of my amendments is going to be to strike Section 10, which is the 13-week disqualification provision. I don't believe business can wait me out. I don't care whether there are 48 other people on the floor with me or none. I have the opportunity to address the public, and they have an opportunity to observe the discussion. They are informed of the nature of the issue, and they can decide for themselves if they think it's serious enough that