

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 7, 2001

LB 620

don't always mean to ordinary people such as myself what they will mean in this bill. So I want to go through the bill step by step, point by point so that we make a record. Not everything that I attempt to do will be in the question-answer format with Senator Kristensen because my questions are not designed for the purpose of tricking anybody or catching him in his words, but to try to understand what this bill's intention is, then to see if the words in the bill accomplish that intention. And if there is an intent in the bill and if the words accomplish that intent, will the public be misled because of what this bill purports to be doing? It talks about creating a certain number of new jobs. That is not true. That is why terms are defined in this bill that mean something different from what an ordinary human being would think those terms mean standing alone. So employee does not necessarily mean a person. Number of hours worked does not necessarily mean you're going to wind up with how many jobs were involved. If you multiply 52 times 40, you come up with 1,080, 1,080 hours. And you would look at that as a part of the formula that ultimately is going to determine how many equivalent employees you have. Another term might be virtual. Another term could be imaginary. Another term could be phantom. We are not talking about actual people. I'm not going to be able to get the bill to say that because that's now what Union Pacific wants. Union Pacific wants to engage in a shell game; and unfortunately, too many of my colleagues on the floor will not take enough interest in this bill in the profound implications of this bill to help me get it in the condition to at least say what the public thinks that is meant. But if we make it say what the public would think that it means, Union Pacific doesn't want it because they want it to be a bill using smoke and mirrors to deceive the public so that they can get these tax breaks without having to deliver on the jobs or the number of people working those jobs. I think the public should not be misled. Whenever you get into the type of linguistic gymnastics that you have to go through in this bill to just know whether you're dealing with the head or the tail, let alone trying to understand what's between them, the idea is not to clarify. The idea is to bewitch, "bebother" and bewilder, make it so complex and difficult...

SENATOR COORDSEN PRESIDING