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(Begin Belt #15)

It also dawns on me that when I go down to a Ford dealer-- the automotive industry has been certainly the backbone of this country back when we were the leading industrial nation in the world--and I go buy a Pinto Ford today and I get my choice. I either get a German engine or I get an English engine and I'm sure that that has no bearing on what we're talking about and if I want to buy a sewing machine, I can't buy an American made sewing machine because all of our sewing machine industries are now closed. I would ask you who builds all the radios in this country, who builds all the components of all of the televisions in this country and I say you cannot continue to keep forcing this kind of an issue, I don't care at what level. Now we brag about our consideration for the young and the children. We're talking about how much we should pay a secondary or an elementary student to work during the summer or after hours. It occurs to me that most of the work that those people did they probably did for their neighbors, tending their yards, fixing up, painting up, minor work that probably did not need to be done and now that our government is taking 35¢ out of our total dollar, the average fellow who would have liked to have employed the neighborhood boy can no longer afford to do it, so he either lets things run down a little bit or does it himself on Sunday and I'm sure we've done all the children a great benefit by increasing his wage to the point where they can't find employment. But if somebody will explain to me why it is that this nation has now done an about-face and gone from being probably the largest exporting nation in the world to one of the largest consuming nations in the world, maybe it will help me understand this issue we have at hand here today.

SPEAKER: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I think to get the issue very quickly, I think if you will look at the dollars paid, what they are being paid for, that total salary weekly is almost negligible. I appreciate Senator Murphy's concern over the economy of the country but I'd say it's multiple factors and I think this is a fair price, I don't think that the committee is overly favorable to labor. I think--I think this wage is decent and I think we need to provide some opportunities for some of our people. I think there's some other factors inflation has caused that people don't realize. It's almost impossible now for people to send their children on to advanced schooling. The college training, technical schools, simply because dad doesn't have those kind of bucks either. It's mandated on a lot of children they must work and so it's not a pleasure, it's not out of idle hands that they're working. I think they're working to achieve money so they can go on to school and I think that the amounts here certainly are not inflationary concerning costs in all areas, both industry, education and so forth and I don't think the bill is out of hand to suggest that we pay a fairly decent salary to young people, whether in school or out of school and again I think the point made earlier that a student out of school and a student in school doing the same job, comparable age, has nothing to do with it.

SPEAKER: Senator Waldron.

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to say a few things in regard to what Senator Kelly had to say. I think as Senator Lewis pointed out it's a lot more complicated than Senator Kelly wants everyone to believe--not Senator Kelly, I mean Senator Murphy--wants everybody to believe about a deficit in our balance of trade. Now if there's