

March 27, 1974

try and be brief and I will try to cover and I will not ask probably in that event for closing. I know there is some opposition to this bill. Last session we adopted a minimum wage bill and it principally affected...among other things, it affected, it included the provisions of the minimum wage act covered children in grade and elementary school. Now as the bill was examined, it was discovered that throughout the state where children of 14, 15, 16, 17 years of age work in parttime summer employment in root beer stands, in dairy queens, in little restaurants, etc. that these had to be covered by the minimum wage act. For the most part, these children were getting their first job. These young people were getting their first job. And the employers are not willing to pay \$1.60 an hour to start these young kids in employment in these parttime summer jobs or any parttime job while they're in school because most of them are very highly inexperienced. And they need experience. It takes training time and it takes them a little time to get going, a month or two. Now, this is not an anti-labor bill, this is not an oppressive bill. It does not affect very many people but these young people who are actually being deprived of work because the places will not hire them at \$1.60 minimum now and as a result they walk around on the street. They have no employment. And it is my intention and the sole objection of this bill to let the elementary and the grade and high school kids be removed from the provisions of the minimum wage act. Now this does not apply to very many areas in larger cities. For example, the stores that use them as checkers like Safeway, Skaggs, or whatever these stores are, generally pay more already because they come under the provisions of the federal minimum wage act. Many do not employ this age group of kids. For example, McDonald restaurants do not employ anyone in this age level. These are mostly the small operations throughout the state and for the most part those small shops or serving places mostly food and drink where they're open during the summer months. I have pointed out it applies principally to the dairy queens and the root beer stands and places of that type. And also a few family restaurants. And I hope this is not looked upon as an oppressive anti-labor device, it is not. I have explained my intentions and the purpose of this bill as fairly and accurately as I can. I move the bill be advanced.

CLERK: Motion on the desk.

PRESIDENT: Read the motion on the desk.

CLERK: I move to indefinitely postpone LB665. Signed, Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I've talked to Senator Carstens to my opposition to what he's trying to do. There were times in the history of this country when child labor was exploited and children were abused. And I wouldn't stand here and say that those kind of conditions obtained generally today where children would be employed. With...Senator Carstens made a good point when he said a lot of these children might be having their first job. So.....

(End of Belt 6A)