

March 27, 1974

(Start Belt #7A)

I wouldn't stand here and say that those kind of conditions obtained generally today where children would be employed. Senator Carstens made a good point when he said that a lot of these children might be having their first job. So when they have their first job they learn something about work. One thing that they ought to learn is about justice. Adequate compensation for labor expended. Just because an individual is smaller or younger does not mean that that person should not receive adequate compensation for the work given. Senator Carstens mentioned that this would effect mostly Dairy Queens and Root Beer Stands. I could see going for a bill like this if the product, the price of the product was cut for the children in this age category. But if these children went to these establishments to make a purchase, they would have to pay full price. They would have to pay full price for anything else that they obtained. So I think that since it applies to high-school students and others that are going to do work in a...a...which an adult might do, they should receive adequate compensation. I was the one who sponsored the bill last session which resulted in an increase in the minimum wage and I do not think that a increase was adequate I think that it raised some status of work from slavery to semi-slavery based on the small amount of money received. But it was the best that I thought that could be gotten out of the legislature. When Senator Carstens mentioned that certain stores who hire people as checkers come under federal legislation and have to pay a higher minimum wage than what this bill would require with his amendment and I think that in itself should show the injustice of saying that because a person works within an establishment under federal legislation the labor is worth more. We are dealing with human dignity. We talk a lot in this body about the work ethic and the dignity of labor. There is no dignity in working for somebody else. The only thing that can keep you from being totally dehumanizing and degrading is to receive adequate compensation. I think that if anybody deserves a decent amount for the money or work expended these children that we are talking about should receive it and the amount that they are getting is not that great. Therefore I move to indefinitely postpone the bill. Whether you will or not, I don't know. If you don't indefinitely postpone it I want you to think about the lesson that is really being taught to these children. There labor is not worth what anybody's is, the state is removing its protective arm from them who need the protection the most.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh, Fowler, DeCamp.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, members of the legislature, I support Senator Chambers motion to indefinitely postpone this bill and for a couple of more extensive reasons. Senator Carstens I believe is sincere and he does feel that he does in this bill representing the small ice cream stand, owner and proprietor and individuals who are conducting business of that fashion. The effect of the bill has a much broader impact on low income wage earners. Those people doing what we generally classify menial jobs and there are many people who are engaged in these menial jobs who actually do subsist upon them. The effect of this bill I think would be to damage