

and talk to some of those rather large printing industries which are private, saying we're now going to place the state and inmate labor which is, I understand is only minimum wage, against your wage which may be \$7.50 or \$8.00 an hour, and you're going to try to compete with that. I can't accept that, Senator Schmit.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, in reference to Senator Koch's comments, I think that there are some statutory prohibitions and restrictions that would provide for some restraint, and I understand what Senator Koch's concerns are and I share them also, but I think that these individuals that produce these materials do have through other statutes, and I cannot name the particular statutes individually, certain restrictions and prohibitions, so I don't think that there will be the competition that you have indicated in your statements, Senator Koch.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, do you have any other comments on the Committee amendments? We're ready to adopt the Committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, I would just like to say in answer to Senator Koch's concern, that you have to go back in the history of LB 910 that was passed in the last session. There has been considerable concern on the part of some individuals of the fact that prison inmates are not allowed to engage in any kind of labor that is of sufficient value to them to be not only productive to the institution for which they work, but productive to themselves. There is also concern on my part that in the past we have not provided opportunities for inmates at the Penitentiary to learn the kind of work that can be useful to them when they reenter society. I recognize Senator Koch's concern, because this may provide some competition for business in his district. So does the construction of furniture at the present provide for competition for the furniture factories. So does the other...well the manufacture of license plates could be done by the people who are in the metal working business. I don't think there is anything very constructive about the manufacture of license plates. The manufacture of those things...and you really don't learn much in the process. But I believe that if you allow the printing industry out there to become a major industry, we do several things. We allow the inmates to become skilled in a very fine profession. We cut down the cost of government,