

number of areas that I don't like, but if the director should decide to enter a contract with a corporation, a factory or whatever, must that corporation, that private enterprise pay at least minimum wages?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, they must, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now must that enterprise pay the same wage to the convict that is paid to the free people who work there?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Chambers, that would be left to the discretion of the director. It was my intention that there would be equal pay for equal work. I think that you have to take into consideration the other responsibilities that would be involved, for example, the lack of transportation cost, et cetera, that another person might have to bear getting to work. There is no intention on my part to exploit an individual or his labor. It is my intention, because I have visited with many people who have indicated that there was a sincere desire on the part of some inmates to work and become productive, to try to make that opportunity available. I do not intend by this legislation to force people to work. There are institutions which do that but that is not my intention.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, would you be opposed to an amendment which said that any enterprise, private enterprise, which employs an inmate would have to pay the same wage as other employees are paid?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would oppose the amendment, Senator Chambers, because I frankly want to give the director that responsibility. If the situation were to allow to exist for a year and we found what you consider to be lack of responsibility on the part of the director then I would be willing to look at it but I frankly think that we have a director who is going to try to be equitable in his handling of the inmates. I would like to do it that way.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But, Senator Schmit, pardon for cutting in but my time is...

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, then I will just make a statement. Members of the Legislature, I doubt that a bill that puts in place an entire new approach to the handling of inmates should be geared to the individual traits of a director who happens to be in office now. He could die. The Governor