

habits. But other employers said, no, I don't want to be bothered with any safety engineer out here, they might find something wrong and then I'll have to fix it. If it weren't for the fact that the times are hard, would I vote to increase workmen's compensation? Probably not. But because prices have gone up and because I think of the person who is making the minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour...Is that the end of round one?

PRESIDENT: Continue, Senator.

SENATOR HIGGINS: What does a person making \$3.35 an hour get for the rest of their life if they are injured? I mean \$3.35, in all honesty, isn't even a living wage. But many employees in Omaha make that. Many people outstate make it. They don't get even \$3.35 an hour after they are injured. I think with me it comes down more to a moral issue. I don't want to raise the rates. But I want you to understand everybody doesn't pay the same rate. People who employ office employees pay a much lower rate than a roofer. Like Gary Hannibal's business, the construction business, they pay a higher rate for their construction workers than they pay for their office workers. They pay two different rates. They pay one for the office worker and one for the people that are out in the field working.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I guess what I have to say in closing is it is a moral question. I don't think increasing workmen's compensation benefits is going to put the small businessman or the big businessman out of business anymore than the taxes that we increase on businesses. I would just urge you to adopt Senator Schmit's amendment to his first amendment as a matter of trying to do something that if it were your son, your daughter, your husband, your wife that had to live on that pittance for the rest of their life or for the next year, maybe, only, think about it in those terms. Remember, insurance companies give you discounts too on your workmen's compensation insurance if you have a good experience rate. Some of them will give you a dividend after three years because you haven't had any claims, you've been good with your employees in keeping them working in a safe manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, senators.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Higgins. Before I recognize