

But it has been made a special, elitist type bill by excluding two categories specifically where driving is the very essence of their employment, truck drivers and cab drivers. If you look at this language dealing with self-employed people, it probably will boil down to those who are considered the higher classes or the better classes of people, the professionals, the ones who are in a position to say that wherever they are they are involved in the work by which they make a living. I'm not concerned, as Senator Haberman is, about blood and death being on my hands if I support a bill like this. I'm concerned about justice and equity. Either the principle on which this bill is based is valid, or it is not. If it is valid, as I think it is, the benefits of the bill should extend to all persons who would come within its purview. But as usual compromises are being made to sacrifice certain people. A cab driver may have five children, a sick wife, a saintly mother, a profligate father, and he is trying to make ends meet by driving that cab over the rutted streets of Omaha, winter, summer, spring and fall, rain, snow, he drives through it all. Every time he picks up a fare he or she could literally be taking life in hand, or placing it in the hands of whoever is riding that cab. This, indeed, might be the only last true hero in this society. And Senator Hoagland and these others want to take away from that person the right to earn a living which they are granting to other people who are not nearly so heroic as the cab driver. The truck driver, about whom songs have been written, the truck driver is almost a folk hero of America. You hear them and see them trundling down the road, 1,000 miles an hour, one foot behind your little Honda which has 264,000 miles on it, driving within the speed limit. But here is the trucker bearing down, and a Honda is so small that if a truck had the power to reverse its engines as a jet plane did it would suck the Honda right through its system and spit it out the tail pipe and not even miss a beat. And this individual, who is as much a part of Americana as Johnny Appleseed and Davey Crocket and Daniel Boone, will be denied, by the dastardly Senator Hoagland and his cohorts, the right to make a living while he is extending that right to people who are far less worthy, who have not contributed anything to Americana. What I want to do with my amendment is restrict the operation of the bill even further. He has chosen to strike at the common man. I choose to strike at the elitists. We are choosing up sides on this bill. Who are the self-employed types who would take advantage of this bill?