

you. I didn't hear his...

SENATOR LANDIS: I do not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It doesn't surprise me. And my time is about up? Okay.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. I would anticipate that Senator Chambers has his light already on for a follow-up speech. But let me discuss the topics. First, I got to make a...a correction for the record. I misspoke earlier. The maximums that I described are the maximum amounts that you can get as a benefit. It would require a wage that was more than a third higher than that. Four hundred dollars would be the maximum benefit. You would get that at the point at which your wage was, let's see some quick math, roughly \$600 a week, \$400 would be the maximum that you could get. I had described that as two-thirds below that. In fact the \$400 is the maximum that you can draw, and that would constitute two-thirds or greater of your salary. Okay. Senator Chambers asks this question, where is the quid pro quo for people who aren't making nine ninety-five or ten bucks an hour, 'cause they're giving something up. They're giving up a freedom of choice. And I...that's a fair characterization. What do they get in return? And I want to say that first, I don't downgrade the fact that workers are trying to move into higher wages. Over time lots of people will be in this category of making more than ten bucks an hour. It's true that 48 percent of the work force are there now, but of the work force that's not there, people will come into that and they will become part of that work force. But let's say that we're not talking about the straight dollar up benefits. I regard the inspection system and inspection committees as being...the safety committees and the safety inspections as being a significant benefit. It depends on the workplace, I know. But I think the chance to communicate, the chance to get better instructions, the chance to alter and discuss, and have a discussion of or an inspection of safety wrongs, safety errors, new technology and equipment can improve the workplace. And I think the best possible result of all is for the worker never to be injured and have their income stream affected. The best thing that can happen is to keep a worker at work, working productivity, at full capacity and full salary. That's the best thing that could happen. And nothing that's