

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR HILLMAN: ..people that got the early papers. So one of the considerations I would have to have us look at here is how we are affecting youth and that youth force that has had a long-standing and I think honorable tradition in delivering newspapers.

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

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, earlier today when we were talking about a state patrol pension program, some people were saying they risk their lives every day, which is really not factually true, but the same could be said about these paper carriers because this little boy, Johnny Goesch has become known all over the country and stands as a symbol of those youngsters who disappear and others have been snatched while delivering papers so it can be a hazardous occupation. I thought as Senator Hillman was mentioning some of the benefits derived by these children that what she says is true. There are benefits, but there are benefits grown men and women derive from working jobs too. They get a salary. They have a place to go and, at Christmas time, they might get a bonus, but nevertheless if they're injured they expect to be covered and they are covered by the workers' compensation system. I don't think because children are smaller and younger that makes them essentially different and therefore unworthy of the same kind of protection as other employees. It also made me think of something. Senator Hillman, I've read a lot of history and, although Patrick Henry was a slaveholder, he was talking to his Virginia colleagues because he was upset with the relationship between the colonies and Britain so he was giving one of his rip-roaring speeches and we, as children, are very familiar with the way it concluded, but he said: is life so precious or peace so dear as to be purchased at the cost of chains and slavery? I know not what course others may take but, as for me, oh, Pat, give me liberty or give me death. Is a job so precious, is a paper route so dear as to be purchased by our children at the cost of no protection should they be injured? I think that cost is too high. To give a child the opportunity to work and sustain a life endangering injury without any protection is too high. To have an instance of a little girl crippled is too high and I think we owe more to our children than what we are giving them by denying them the status of