Since $\chi(G) \cdot \alpha(G) \geq|V(G)|$, Hadwiger's Conjecture implies that any graph $G$ has the complete graph $K_{\left\lceil\frac{n}{\alpha}\right\rceil}$ as a minor, where $n$ is the number of vertices of $G$ and $\alpha$ is the maximum number of independent vertices in $G$. Motivated by this fact, it is shown that any graph on $n$ vertices with independence number $\alpha \geq 3$ has the complete graph $K_{\left\lceil\frac{n}{2 \alpha-2} 7\right.}$ as a minor. This improves the well-known theorem of Duchet and Meyniel and the recent improvement due to Kawarabayashi, Plummer, Toft. A result related to the odd version of Hadwiger's Conjecure will also be mentioned.

This is joint work with Ken Kawarabayashi. (Received January 31, 2008)

