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states' average. Although some states, South Dakota and Wyoming are lower than Nebraska, the majority, Iowa, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri, far outdistance Nebraska and in three of them outstrip the Consumer Price Index. Nebraska state employees over the course of the last ten years have had their purchasing power shrunk, their relative economic status compared to other state employees shrunk and now we cap that decade long history of parsimony and deprivation by absolutely no state employee wages... increases, rather. Now I understand that Senator Fenger projects an economy that would be able to have a retroactive increase of next year. That is unprecedented. I know of nothing that justifies in the history of this state that happy illusion that we will pass back some 5 or 6 percent retroactive wage increase. We have senators in here with twenty years experience and I would call on you to ask them if they have ever seen anything of the like occur across the board in that fashion. We used to perceive state employees as public servants, as about the business of public service. Gradually perhaps that image has been tarnished with our own cynicism, with our own desire to see waste wherever we think that it might spring up. But I believe state employees are still out there operating under the assumption that they are the public servants and doing the will of the public. I think it will be tough to muster their commitment to their tasks and their morale to the functions that they do on our behalf when we tell them.....

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR LANDIS: .....they aren't worth a nickel more next year than they were this year and that although their functions are vital that we won't cut their programs but they are simply expected to suck it in and to work with no incentive and no pay increase is imminently unfair. It constitutes not only a continuation but an escalation of the decade long history of parsimony and deprivation which we have recently experienced with respect to our state employees and their relative status to work as generally, to the economy generally and to the state employees in the midwest. I urge rejection of the Fenger amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and colleagues, I would rise in opposition to Senator Fenger's amendment. I understand the direction that he is coming from in his hopes to save scarce economic dollars, but I stand before you to tell you that he is looking for