

benefits, and it would be both. For instance, if you had an \$8 wage job and you had \$3 in benefits in terms of health care and other types of assistance, that would qualify. The \$11 figure is used because that is what the one study we did last year, dealing with welfare, found to be the base level of income that a family needed to do better than welfare benefits. And I think that's a standard we ought to consider. We ought to be able to create jobs that are at least as good as the welfare programs that we have in the State of Nebraska, that these jobs created should be better than that, that they should be an incentive for people not to be in the welfare program. And part of the thinking that I have is that we, with those better paying jobs, we will entice people off the welfare system and into the work force. And the only way you're going to do that is if the jobs pay. Now, without this provision, these jobs that could be created could be without any health care, could be low-wage jobs, they could be like some of the other jobs created by LB 775. And what do we really gain by that? We end up with individuals still needing health care with problems of the uninsured, the low wages still cause problems in some families and situations that again will not perhaps take care of the needs of the family and force them again back into welfare. So it seems to me that if we're taking the opportunity to move forward, let's move forward in a way that we know what we're getting, that we're getting good paying jobs, and see if we can't use this an incentive, not just to bring companies into Nebraska, but companies into Nebraska that provide really good jobs for Nebraskans. With that, I'd ask for support for the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Madam President, members of the body, my recollection of world history is coming back here as I see Senator Wesely continue to offer these amendments and do battle on this bill. Remembering history of Europe following World War I, after World War I, in which the Germans and the French confronted each other continually in trench warfare day after day and year after year, the French decided, in the interim, that they were going to construct this...it's called the Maginot line of a system of trenches that would be simply unpenetrable. And they did so and they invested heavily in that. By the time World War II rolled around though the Germans simply went around those particular trenches and fought the war anyway. The analogy here is one that whereas nations tend to prepare for the