

the other, the farmer would like to receive and it's called the deficiency payment or a subsidy. Now that has been going on since the early 1900s, maybe longer ago than that, but the very idea of the government guaranteeing a certain level...

SENATOR LANDIS: Pause for just a second, Senator Chambers. I think the popcorn has produced a sense of birth over here but also a sense of volume that makes it difficult for somebody who is trying to listen to Senator Chambers do so. Feel free to continue your conversations but in a hushed tone of voice rather than a full voice. Senator Chambers, please continue.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman. We have a situation with the agricultural segment of society or the agricultural sector where they want the government to guarantee a certain level of income for them. Now I don't blame them for trying to do that. Everybody who expends labor would like to know that in exchange for that labor a certain return is assured, but somehow when we talk about people who have nothing but their labor to sell, a different attitude develops and the very ones who want the subsidies and the other types of things that the government will give to agriculture, such as virtual free grazing lands that belong to the government to be used without pay, and so forth, they cannot understand what we're talking about now when we want to ensure that workers are guaranteed a certain minimum wage, a minimum level of compensation. And this does not apply to every company, it applies only though to those to whom the state has relinquished its virtue and somewhat tarnished chastity. I guess if it's tarnished, it's not that anymore. Eleven dollars, to me, is a low side of the figure because those various benefits that Senator Hall touched on would be included. If the company wanted to exaggerate about how much these other benefits are worth, the actual dollars paid to the employee could shrink and be minimal, but, nevertheless Senator Wesely is trying to give us something to let these companies see to know we are serious about wanting these jobs to have substance. There is no way I could fail to support his amendment. I only wish that I had studied the bill well enough to have offered it myself. That would have assured its defeat but nevertheless I would feel good about having done something that is so righteous. And although it is impossible to make a silk purse from a sow's ear, this would go a long way toward removing some of the bumps and warts and other things that you find on that ear.