

done, or we are going to have a real problem when the cutoffs come. I don't know if I've answered all your questions, but that's the background on it.

SENATOR HALL: I'll waive.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I have some concerns about the language in this section. If you have taken a little time to read this, it says, the Department of Labor shall study and make recommendations on adjusting the minimum wage in Nebraska to account for increases in the cost of living. And then there are several other things that they have to do. I guess I don't know why we're instructing the Department of Labor to make recommendations on adjusting...oh, wrong section, huh. Oh, never mind, next time around.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Chambers, you are to speak on the amendment now. Senator Witek, you are free to help him on his speech too.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, you can see we're developing quite a collegial atmosphere around here. Senator Wesely, I don't think that anybody, even those who might support this roundtable concept, and as I say, there are some possibilities here, would see this language as really ensuring anything than...other than a voluntary association of people. Is that correct?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, we have a few "shalls" in here but, frankly, we had those last year and then those shalls really didn't get done. I mean they did come in with recommendations but I thought they were inadequate. So, you're right. It is a group of volunteers brought together by the Governor to try and work through this. They, themselves, have asked to continue their work. They know that they didn't have the time. Part of it was they got picked late. The time frame, I think they had to have it done by Sept...October 1 or something. They just didn't get the job done, and they, themselves, came in and said please give us some more time, we want to continue the effort.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wesely, here's what I am kind of