

money. I'd be curious, maybe Don could answer a question for me.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR LYNCH: We're told, Don, that in Nebraska we have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. If someone is forced because of the absence of jobs they are qualified for to work at say two part-time jobs, one at Burger King and one at McDonald's or wherever else it might be, not to mention names, but assuming they work less than enough hours to qualify them for benefits, if, in fact, benefits exist in companies, is that considered two jobs even though one person on our employment statistics in Nebraska? Just...and I'll tell you why I ask the question. I asked...I went into a operation and asked the question of especially the middle aged or the older workers if this was their only job. In every case, I talked to 12 people, this was their first or second job. They were, in fact, working two jobs, had no benefits, and in ten of the 12 cases, if I remember right, they had kids and dependents, and no medical benefits at all. They are not worried about living in a house that they can afford. They are just worried about living, period. They are worried about getting sick because they can't afford to get sick. They hope their kids don't get sick. So I'm curious when we talk about our low unemployment rate, if, in fact, that these ten people are considered as 20 jobs and against then the average of people unemployed. Do you know?

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Lynch, I am not particularly familiar with all of the different figures, but I do know there are some that do include the multiple jobs and count them as multiple, so that you end up having some distortions as you are indicating. I do know some counting, statistics, does include that.

SENATOR LYNCH: Do you think we could amend this bill to provide for affordable health care benefits? You know, that would be something. Could we amend it to provide that you can't hire somebody unless you provide benefits so that they don't have to worry about whether they are going to have affordable housing or not? I, you know, in both of those cases, we know exactly what kind of costs we are getting involved with because we know about how many people are underinsured or, in fact, uninsured because of the circumstance they have to be living in. That's just another example of how this...everybody knows we need affordable