

their teacher. Could you please and be recognized? Understand there's an amendment to the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Brashear would move to amend Senator Wesely's amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brashear to open on your amendment. (AM3904 is found on page 1312-13 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, when it became apparent through Senator Wesely's amendments to 1368 we would be discussing the minimum wage, I determined that I thought it would be important to discuss the minimum wage as it relates to the entire economy of the state of Nebraska and not just as it relates to the for-profit or free-market portion of Nebraska's economy. Noting that there are two exemptions provided by statute from minimum wage in Nebraska, one being those who work in agriculture and the other being those who are employed by the state or any political subdivision thereof, I thought that in order to properly frame this debate we ought to first decide who the minimum wage, the state minimum wage, would apply to. I tell you in advance that I will be, in the vernacular of our trade, arguing against Senator Wesely's amendment AM3495, but I am urging that you adopt the Brashear amendment to the Wesely amendment in order that we can know how to proceed. You see, agriculture is what we're all about. We've acknowledged its supremacy in our economic affairs for decades. And state government, because we have not experienced growth, state government is, in fact, one of our largest employers. So if we're going to debate increasing the minimum wage, let's debate who we apply it to and not just frame the debate as one in which only those who work in the free market competitive world for profit, who pay taxes, will have to pay the minimum wage. Now you're probably wondering if there are those who don't earn a minimum wage in agriculture or in state government. There are many on this floor who can speak with a great deal more knowledge than I as to whether or not there are people employed in agriculture who do not earn the minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour and I suggest that some farmers...I have enough knowledge to know that some farmers and ranchers in tough times will probably volunteer that they don't earn a minimum wage. But I think it will further interest you to know that we have 322 workers in the Department of Public Institutions who don't earn a minimum wage. In fact, these people are only paid