

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, yeah.

SENATOR WITEK: And was it sweatshop conditions?

SENATOR WESELY: I said before we had the minimum wage there were sweatshops. Things have gotten a little better since the federal government played a role in that.

SENATOR WITEK: Was it the federal government, do you think, or was it maybe market forces?

SENATOR WESELY: I think the federal government was the reason that we have ended some of the sort of abuses that occurred some years ago.

SENATOR WITEK: I do try to understand why you go ahead with...so your ideal number would have been \$11 an hour.

SENATOR WESELY: For...in utilizing and accessing tax breaks from the state, \$11, and the reason that figure's used, Senator Witek, is that when we're doing welfare reform, it was felt that to get a living wage and benefit, not just wage, wage and benefit, to live on as a family, that was the target figure they felt Nebraskans needed.

SENATOR WITEK: So in order to pick that target figure you put together, you put together all of the things that basically you felt that someone should have and the government would provide that, and that was \$11 an hour to do that.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, actually, there was some feeling that the current welfare system, I think, provides assistance in health care, child care, and cash assistance in that range and that that was the level that, in fact, people needed to live on in the market, private marketplace as well. So they did...it wasn't that we reached out and gave that to everybody, but when they moved into a job to have an incentive to move into and be able to live on it, that's the sort of wage and benefit you needed.

SENATOR WITEK: Did you look at any areas of, like, child care areas of using relatives or friends to baby-sit or in health care, maybe not using the most expensive health care, or did you look at those areas or is this...? How did they arrive at those