

you that probably most people, the first job that they ever have, they are not worthy of their hire. They are not skilled. They are less productive and so there is a point in time where, while training is going on, that, and many people don't even know how to work if you say that word "work", where the time that is being spent is not productive. It's really the employer is not getting his money's worth out of the employee. Generally speaking, the minimum wage disadvantages our youth who are more apt to be low skill because of their age and because of lack of experience. Generally, minimum wage jobs are the entry level jobs, those where it's their first opportunity to actually work and to gain any employment whatsoever. Thus, the minimum wage is really a stepping stone allowing those who lack job training to enter the labor force and acquire marketable skills and, thus, receive higher pay. The entry level market can be considered an extension of school and training that individual at minimum wage or whatever the wage be is a training level. So I think we need to look at this as to what the minimum wage is and it's kind of ironic that we talking about minimum wage on a bill that is so far from the minimum wage that certainly we have to question a little bit the germaneness of talking about the minimum wage in LB 1368, but this is...it's well that we speak on this on the floor, I suppose, to establish what a minimum wage, what a entry level wage should be. But economists across the country have proven that, when you raise the minimum wage, you actually reduce the number of employees, and that will happen. It will happen across the country if we have a federal minimum wage increase. It will happen here in Nebraska if we increased the minimum wage at this time. So, therefore, I would urge that you vote no on the Wesely amendment and that we can then get into the substantive part of this bill before us, the Quality Jobs Act, the job creation that is before us with LB 1368. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Schimek. Senator Schimek? Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Again, I rise and ask for your support for the minimum wage amendment that's before you. There's been a number of arguments made. I'd like to respond to a few of those. First off, there's talk about the impact on jobs and I think the argument that's trying to be made is that by helping the poor we hurt the poor; if we help the working poor we will hurt the