

worried about what we do about it. The one step that we have available to us as a state Legislature, at least something we've done in the past and we can do more of today, is to raise the minimum wage. Now if we want to do some more than that, I'm happy to discuss it, I'm happy to take our tax breaks and say, if you want a tax break, you got to pay \$11 an hour in wages and benefits. You want to get a help from us, then you help us out by getting decent paying jobs. And I know some of the language in here is effective on that, but LB 775 doesn't do that, LB 829 doesn't do that; that's something that we could do as well. So this is not the answer, this is not the solution, this is a first step. And if we can't even take the first step, how do we take the additional steps to address this? You know out there across the land we're talking about people running for President and about the sort of issues that are out there, and Pat Buchanan, who I have little regard for, has sure struck upon one issue that Bob Dole was surprised to find out, that people really are worried about their work, they're worried about their job security, they're worried about their economic future. And that's one thing that I think, if you go back in your districts you'll find that everybody in this state, everybody in this country is worried about. With all the downsizing, all the changes in our economic forces, people are worried about where they're going to turn to, what kind of jobs they're going to have. And one of the things we've got to recognize is for too long in this country, we have tried to...

SENATOR LINDSAY: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...enrich the rich, we've tried to help the wealthy get more and more wealth accumulated. We have not turned around and recognized that we need to work with those that are at the bottom end of the scale, giving them the skills and opportunities and lifting them up to give them a chance to build this economy. I mean there...if you give people a decent job, if you give them a decent wage, they will in turn be able to afford things and purchase products and services, and in that way generate economic activity and bringing this country out of the stagnant problems that we've had from time to time. This is a chance for us to lift everybody up by helping those at the bottom. It will not only help the minimum wage earner, it will help other wage earners, and that's the whole goal here. It's not just to do the minimum wage, but it's to recognize wages are a problem in this state. We are not paying the workers in