

even? I mean the conservative ideology that says that we don't need a minimum wage, that we don't need to be concerned about this, I mean, it even goes so far as to dispel the notion of bad luck. People who are working their hardest may not have time to further their education. They may be young, yes, young people have families. Maybe we can debate whether that's good or bad, but that's a fact. Not all people go to college, that's a fact. People have to make hard choices, people have to take the jobs that are available to them. At 25 cents, I...you know, we can talk about the abstract in the macro-economic sense, but this is a small state. I have a finance degree, and one of the things we learned about was called Marx and Friedrich Engels, over here at the University. They said the mean old capitalists keep a high unemployment rate in order to keep wages low. In Nebraska we have an incredibly low unemployment rate, it's a source of pride in our state. But yet wages are still low. Friedrich Marx...or Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx would be surprised if they came to the state of Nebraska. You can't talk about a state of a million and a half in a macro-economic sense.

SENATOR LINDSAY: One minute.

SENATOR HILGERT: You know, I may be getting a little emotional and maybe I don't have some of the think tank studies from some of the conservative groups and so forth, but I tell you what. The working people in south Omaha and across this state deserve a quarter above the present minimum wage. That's not too much to ask. That's not too much to ask. And I would ask this body to support this. And again, if you want something tangible from raising the minimum wage, here it is in my hand, it's called a quarter. That's very tangible. Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, if we were in church, all that would have to be said after what Senator Hilgert said was amen and amen. It is something how these people who are so paternalistic want to tell the poor how they ought to behave and react to things. It's amazing to me that these same people, if something related to their child, wants to give their child the best that they can provide, but when it comes to a poor person who has a child, they cannot conceive of the possibility of a poor parent having the same concern for his or her child that they have for theirs. They