

think they have a monopoly on concern and interest in providing more for their family than what currently is provided. They have no sympathy, no understanding, no compassion whatsoever. If they had sat in on the hearings that we've had on the minimum wage before the Business and Labor Committee, they would hear all of these people who are opposed to raising it say, I have a business and I pay more than the minimum wage. So why are they there opposing increasing the minimum wage, because it is like a conspiracy among these people who have businesses. They all get together and parcel out these responsibilities and say, this year, you go in there and you put the hammer down, you step on these people. And there'll be other instances, and it's why I get so filled with contempt at the way the Legislature does things, when these same hard-hearted, steely-eyed, unfeeling members of the Legislature are going to talk about doing something for the people of Nebraska. What I intend to do, but I need to ask Senator Wesely, is raise the minimum wage in this amendment to a respectable amount so that if I lose, then I want that which I was fighting for to justify the effort and take some of the sting and some of the humiliation out of putting forth so much effort for what Senator Hilgert held up, this quarter, which is an alloy even. You don't see the quarter in my hand, do you? Because in the real economy of today, a quarter will buy you just about what you see or don't see in my hand right now. I'm holding up a nonquarter. And we have these big shot business people who I doubt buy anything that costs only a quarter telling those of us who represent poor people and those such as myself who acknowledge being poor, how we are better off if we stay poor while they and their cronies get wealthy. Senator Witek sits down there in her naivete and vacuous way and talks about the state setting a wage, then wants to establish a give-away program for these big businesses, establishing a give-away program involving hundreds of millions of dollars and then is indignant because we want to talk about increasing the wage that these working people earn by 25 cents. You all would be so proud of that Bryan fellow if you read his Cross of Gold, you know, how labor shall not be crucified upon this "cross of gold." And you would feel your little chests swelling with pride because it's somebody from Nebraska. And then...

SENATOR LINDSAY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...you turn around and you deny an alloyed