

SENATOR LINDSAY: If there's no objection. It is so ordered.

CLERK: AM3732, found on page 1229, Mr. President.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I have talked to Senator Brashear. I have attempted to be reasonable in the amendments that I'm offering. I'm very disappointed in the last vote on the minimum wage. This is, in a sense, a follow-up to that on the other side of the coin. The two issues I wanted to raise at this stage of debate on LB 1368 is, first off, how low the minimum wage is, and second off, how we are able to, under LB 775 credits, provide for individuals making more than \$1 million a year from having to pay any state income tax. The amendment before you, and a summary of that is being passed out...the amendment before you does two things, two things. First off, it says that a spouse's income, from those individuals who have a corporate entity in which the taxes and the credits flow through to the personal income of that individual, those are S corporations and limited liability companies and some other entities that partnerships allow for that; that at least the individual spouse's income doesn't also get written off from paying any state income tax under that provision. The second thing that the amendment does is it does not allow for an individual who makes a gross income of over \$200,000 from totally wiping out any tax liability to the state of Nebraska, so that we can't have the situation which was reported by the World Herald here just a couple of weeks ago, where we have 26 individuals who earned adjusted gross income of more than \$1 million in one year and didn't pay a dime in state income tax. This says that those individuals would have to pay a minimum of 3 percent of their gross income. Now this does not apply to individuals making less than \$200,000 a year. This applies to those making more than that. So these are individuals who have significant income. And the idea is that those individuals with that kind of income ought not to be totally able to escape any liability in terms of their state taxes. Now, contrast that to the discussion that we just had. We talked about raising the minimum wage 25 cents an hour for the very poorest of those who are working in our state. That was rejected. Now we're talking about the very richest among us, those making the greatest amount of money. The question is, are we now going to turn around, say, after we've turned our back on the poorest among us, those who are the wealthiest among us are going to have the opportunity to escape any sort of state