

But for my part, whenever one of these matters comes before the Legislature, whether it relates to the welfare of people who live on the edge of a meadow, or those who live in the heart of this thriving so-called metropolis of Omaha, thriving semimetropolis known as Lincoln, regardless of where people live, they have the same essential human nature value and worth. They have similar needs. They want to provide things for themselves and their families. I wear jeans because I want to. Maybe somebody else...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...doesn't want to come to the city and wear a bib overall with only one strap, but maybe that is all that they can put their hides. Why can we not, since we have senators like Senator Beutler and Senator Withem, who want to say we shouldn't engage in the rhetoric of division, why can we not just think of the people in Nebraska as people who need to earn a living and, therefore, should be paid a living wage? Since we are giving benefits, concessions, and subsidizing these companies by way of the taxpayer, let us require them to do something for the people of the state, the workers, particularly. I support Senator Wesely's amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely... Senator Chambers, I am sorry. It's the proximity and I really can't tell the difference. Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to the Wesely amendment. It isn't because there is not concern for those things that Senator Wesely addresses. It is just that once again we've lost our focus. You see, 1368 is a bill that requires a minimum wage of \$9.62 an hour before it even applies. Senator Wesely is using his amendment to attempt to go back to LB 775, and I think there is something disingenuous about the approach. I am sure it is unintended, but if you have a concern about those who are at the lowest levels compensationwise of employment in the state of Nebraska, why would you quiet or stop the job creating machine that has produced thousands and thousands of jobs in the state of Nebraska at accumulative average salary of \$22,651. Just last year, the average 775 job salary rose by nearly \$1,000 per annum. No matter how you might desire to increase compensation to everyone for their individual good and for our collective