

strong or effective an effort as I should based on the fact that we've now seen a number of amendments fail that I thought were quite reasonable in attempting to address concerns that I had. We have no increase in the minimum wage, either at 25 cents or at the 90 cents, as originally discussed. We have no minimum wage for workers receiving tax breaks through these corporations so that we have good paying jobs getting the tax breaks. We have no minimum tax for millionaires now paying no taxes because of pass-through tax breaks. We don't even have a requirement that people that are hired by these companies who get these tax breaks have to be legal residents of our country. There are so many flaws with our economic and tax policies, in terms of its economic justice, in terms of its fairness, that I don't know how we are able to tolerate it in some cases by our constituents and our efforts hopefully to reflect their views, because I know where the public is on this issue. They want to see a minimum wage increase. They want to see corporate tax breaks go to good-paying jobs, and they want them to go to people that are residents of our country, and I think they don't like the idea of millionaires not paying any taxes, but where the public is and where this Legislature are are two completely different things unfortunately. We rank 45th to 47th in this country in wages. There are those who seem to think that we're doing quite well, that that's okay. Now our income is more in the middle, in the 28th or something, and that is because of federal transfer payments, social security, agriculture. Many Nebraskans are out there calling about cutting the federal budget, but without it, if we didn't have those federal transfer payments, we'd be looking awful, awful bad right now in terms of what our standard of living would be. So my question is, what are we going to do about the situation? I'd like to hear, if anybody disputes we have a problem, that would be interesting. I think it would be hard to argue that we don't have a problem with wages for working people in this state. So if we have a problem, what are we going to do about it, and I think we seriously have a problem. While the Governor's Roundtable was established, when we did welfare reform, and that was to work with the business community to come up with jobs for folks when they left welfare so they could have a decent standard of living, they could make it in the workplace, and nothing has happened on that. I mean, they met, they talked, it's gone. The whole effort, in my view, was a flop, and I am very disappointed in that. It is not the Governor's fault particularly. It is as much the fault, in my view, of the