

business community as anything. They seem to take, but I don't know how much they give when it comes to these issues. They want to see welfare cut off, they want to see welfare reform. We say, work with us, get good jobs out there for these people, but where are they when the time comes to do that? They are not there. So I guess, again, I'm making a challenge to Senator Brashear and the other supporters of this bill, and I am making a challenge to the business community of this state that you don't like the amendments, you don't like what I've been offering, but what is it that you're willing to do? What is it that we together can accomplish to get the wages of workers up in this state, get the good jobs that we all want in the state of Nebraska, so that everybody can benefit from a strong economy? We see the stories of the UP CEO buying a \$700,000 home and tearing it down to use it as a lot to build a multimillion dollar home on it. There is a business person in town here who has just announced a 3 million dollar home they are going to build here outside of town. At the same time, you have those kind of figures and that kind of income, well, FirstTier...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...sale, the FirstTier sale to First Bank left people with multimillion dollars of profit off of that sale, and now we no longer have a local control of one of the largest banks in our state. It is now controlled out of another state. You know, it's...it's...I suppose if I were sitting in that situation, I'd be mighty happy about the situation, I acknowledge that. But for all the rest of us, it isn't so great. You know, it is not easy getting by on the kind of wages that we have and expenses that we have trying to raise a family, and I think the voices of those people need to be heard, and whether this Legislature or whether the business community responds or somebody responds, something has to be done about the problem. It can't be ignored, and I won't let you ignore it because I will bring it up every chance I get until something is done about it. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, because we have talked about dollar amounts, I would like to ask Senator Brashear a question or two about some other aspects of