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It's holding out a false promise. It's like the will-o'-the-wisp, which is the appearance in swamp country of a light and people follow it and they get lost, then they get more lost, then they're hopelessly lost, because what they saw was not a light at all. This is a will-o'-the-wisp. It's a waste of taxpayers' money. It's the holding out of a false hope. You heard Senator Stuhr.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: She sits here, having listened to the debate, and she thinks it's a salvation, up to a point. She thinks it's going to produce businesses that will salvage rural Nebraska. She thinks it's going to bring into being customers to support these businesses who are not there now. She thinks it will make businesses able to flourish where businesses right now are failing in rural Nebraska. I will vote against the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Lynch. There are no other lights on, Senator Lynch. Senator Matzke, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. President. I certainly hope that the picture of doom painted by Senator Chambers does not come true, but he does raise a specter that I think concerns us all and I think motivates us all to take some action. I do want to respond to what Senator Raikes says, because I think he mischaracterizes this bill. He says that this will pay benefits to, quote, high-income group. I don't think paying \$19,000...wages of \$19,000 a year is a high-income group. We know that a few weeks ago we were dealing with the question of 185 percent of poverty and those below that line entitled to state benefits, and that figure was \$31,000 a year. And, yet, if you will look at my handout here along the right-hand side column, says Rural Economic Opportunities Act annual average wage requirement, and that requirement runs from \$19,694 up through about \$22,000. So these figures are still under the limit that we are looking at for paying benefits at 185 percent of poverty. This is not benefitting the high-income group. It is creating jobs that will pay a livable wage. As Senator Brashear says, it raises the bar in smaller communities. It pegs an effective minimum wage at about \$9.50 an hour, which is