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this state, quite frankly, is that wages are too low, wages are too low. We have record unemployment, have had for a number of years, and still wages are low. We still have large numbers of person qualifying for assistance, even though they're employed, and we have, I think in an almost insidious fashion, adopted a policy in this state that said if you are a household and you have children, there have to be two breadwinners. In that household there have to be breadwinners because nobody in this state will, in a broad based way, pay enough to one person to support a family, and that creates, in and of itself, a tremendous demand for child care services. But who created that demand for child care services? The businesses that wouldn't pay a decent wage to a family, so that they...so that one of them could stay home. So here we are solving a problem created by businesses themselves when they simply wouldn't pay an adequate wage. The other way in which they could solve their problem, even if they didn't want to pay a wage that allowed someone to stay home is that they could pay a decent enough wage so their employee could legitimately contract with someone to provide child care services for them. This is simply an end-around by a bunch of folks who won't pay a decent wage. I can't imagine why we want to help them out.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Further debate, Senator Suttle, followed Senators Stuhr, Landis, and Kremer. Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, Senator Wickersham talked about existing child care and how this is an unfair problem for them. I don't believe that it is. I think this is a perfect opportunity for them to broaden their marketing abilities and be able to contract with a business, and both would benefit. The one, being the contractor, would...would receive those employees' children, and if they're accredited, they would receive quality child care. I think that this is a benefit that would help couples and let them live on the lower wages that they have come to expect in this state. I think that this benefit would benefit both the business and the children, especially if we adopt my amendment. I think that quality child care is very important and next to having a mother there all the time, which is absolutely the most important, would be even better to have quality child care. I