

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 925

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And ConAgra could determine which portions of its facility...

SENATOR LANDIS: That's incorrect, no, that's not what it says.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so how would that be determined?

SENATOR LANDIS: The commissioner would have the ultimate authority in determining that fact, not ConAgra.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Landis. When I look at what ConAgra did to this Legislature, then I'm not too confident of a commissioner withstanding pressure from ConAgra. I don't see why all of these benefits for these companies have to be put in this bill. Either it's designed to reasonably provide childcare or it's not. Senator Wickersham's earlier comments a few days ago really got me thinking about this. Some of these things are what companies ought to provide anyway. So wherever there is a responsibility on the company in order for it to be a good citizen is not going to be assumed by the company then the state steps in. But it doesn't do that all the time. We will not raise the minimum wage. These companies ought to pay a decent wage. We will subsidize a service that they should provide the employees, but we will not insist that they pay the employees a minimum wage. And if a bill came through here for that purpose, I know the rough sledding it would have because I've seen what has happened to bills like that where a very modest increase was offered. So it has been made easy for me on this bill now. Unfortunately, I was occupied in my office when another amendment that Senator Wickersham offered which would keep employees who receive these benefits from having to pay taxes. That was rejected. I have no idea what's going on on this bill, but it's reached a point where since I can't keep up with everything I've seen enough in it that is a turnoff for me that I don't have to follow the additional debate on AM3330 or on LB 925, even with what Senator Hilgert is going to offer. The whole thing is changing. And I don't know whether you're going to be able, to use my word, cobble together 30 votes to override a veto. It's almost as if work is being done to drive people away from the bill so there will be no chance to override. But as I stated, I will not participate in the