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SENATOR TYSON: For that reason, I don't support either the Foley amendment or the bill, and I urge you to vote against it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Foley, on your amendment to LB 435.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. One of our colleagues made the comment that it's only a bunch of high school kids who are making this minimum wage. Why worry about it? Those high school kids, the kids who are serving us in restaurants and retail establishments, those are the kids that are trying to make...put aside some money for college. University of Nebraska has had back-to-back tuition increases. There may be more on the horizon, in light of the budget situation. And I don't see any problem with trying to help those kids out a little bit. Let them make a little bit more. And I wish we could legislate prosperity in this body. We can't, obviously. We might wish for that, but we can't. But we can legislate a measure of fairness. And the concept of minimum wage is a time honored concept of fairness that's been long enshrined in federal statute. And as Senator Beutler had pointed out earlier, if that minimum wage had simply kept up with inflation, we'd be up close to \$8 by now. He's not asking us to go that far, and I'm asking us to go even less. I don't think this is going to cause a loss of jobs anywhere, because I think the kinds of businesses that are paying minimum wage are businesses that are competing with other businesses that are in the same wage brackets. They may have to raise their prices a little bit, but so will their competitors. I think it will keep them on an even keel. Every argument that I've heard so far against either my amendment or Senator Beutler's bill is really an argument against the whole concept of minimum wage. I don't agree with that at all. I think we need a minimum wage. It ought to be fair. And I think my amendment is at least a step in the right direction. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Schimek, on the Foley amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members.