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And that's the way business operates. Some way we have to find a way to help those people at the very bottom rung of the ladder. I mean, if you're having problems now managing your own household finances, imagine what the person at the bottom of the ladder is facing. I would like to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...at this point, I would like to return the rest of my time to the Chair, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. The speaking order for discussion of the Foley amendment are Senators Vrtiska, Jones, Beutler, Chambers, Hartnett, Cunningham, Mines, Janssen, and Erdman. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. As probably noted, I didn't vote for this bill out of committee, and for very good reason. I felt at a time when the entire economy is struggling the way it is, it was a difficult choice to in fact put this kind of a bill up before the Legislature. I don't know of very many people who are in the work force that are not making more than minimum wage anyway, except for these youngsters that Senator Cunningham talked about, and other people in this kind of business, where they're able to hire young high school kids, young kids to earn a few dollars during the summer months to help themselves to buy the things that they want or need. So I felt like it wasn't a big issue, from the standpoint that I can't think of very many businesses that are hiring people at the minimum wage, and the reason being that the marketplace demands that they pay more if they want to hire. You take places like fast-food houses are now paying more than the minimum wage because they can't hire people for less. So I didn't think it was such a big issue to deal with as a legislative matter, simply because the marketplace demands what we have to pay to hire people, except those who are only working to earn a few extra dollars. And they're willing to work for that kind of a wage in order to make those few extra dollars. The other issue, of course, that concerned me, along with what Senator Cunningham talked about, some of these businesses are in fact having a difficult time, and they're going to have to raise