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has...was...in 1978-79 was about 3, 3.1 percent. It went up slightly, and then since 1990 it's been at 2.2 percent, never higher than 3 percent, and in recent years down around 2.7, 2.9, and then just last year started to creep up. But if you try to compare those figures to the increases in the minimum wage, you find no correlation whatsoever, no correlation whatsoever. So I don't think anyone can look at the statistics and even see a correlation, much less prove that increasing the minimum wage in Nebraska meant increased unemployment. It makes one kind of cynical to think that the way this free-market system was supposed to work, as described by some in here today, was that when there was pressure on the job market and no workers, that meant the minimum wage would automatically go up. But what really happened in Nebraska? Instead of playing the game on the free-market description, what happened was we went off to Mexico and recruited literally tens of thousands of Hispanic workers to come up here and work for what was to them high wages but was to us lower wages. So all of the supposed benefit of being a fair partner in the free-market sense went right out the window, didn't it? So I don't know what lesson is to be learned from that, but I know that looking at the statistics that it is clear that there is no correlation between unemployment and increasing the minimum wage in Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening on FA1311, offered by Senator Beutler to LB 435. Open for discussion on that amendment, Senator Beutler, did you want your light on to speak again? He waives that opportunity. Senator Janssen, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Another light on this picture, we have some corporate giants that aren't too concerned about what the minimum wage is in this country, or they, you know, they really don't care. Because what they're doing now, they are taking their business to other countries. One particular country, the minimum wage is 31 cents an hour. So they don't worry about the minimum wage here. They're big enough, they move their manufacturing to another country. What can we do about that? Nothing. We will still keep buying from them. This particular company buys over \$12 billion a year in merchandise manufactured in another country. The people that