

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 15, 2003 LB 435

increase he's going to have to give one of his workers in there, you know, there's not that much profit in...I don't know. What is the profit? Senator Cunningham, would you yield?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Cunningham, would you yield?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: What was the...yes.

SENATOR COMBS: What kind of profit do you all operate off of in the grocery store business?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, it's net, net profit is between 1 and 3 percent.

SENATOR COMBS: One and three percent. So how many groceries would you have to sell to make another \$300 bucks a month to cover this increase for an average employee at minimum wage?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: I would need a calculator to figure that one out, Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Okay. Well, it would be a lot of groceries.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: It would be a lot of groceries.

SENATOR COMBS: You probably aren't going to squeeze that out of the number of customers you have in an average month in your store.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, if you take the figures I gave you, remember, in my little store, it was a minimum of \$15,000 a year.

SENATOR COMBS: Okay. My point is that if these minimum wage jobs, if the majority of the people working them are entry level people, I have had nursing assistants that started out at minimum wage. I helped them go to LPN school and access free grant programs and stuff to better themselves and make more money. Entry level jobs are just that--entry level jobs. They're an opportunity in America to better yourself. All of us here started out in entry level jobs. You know, some of us, we