

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

April 15, 2003 LB 435

has attempted to help us resolve this matter. I have to make clear why I offered my amendment, though. I did not just want a 30-cent increase. I wanted to emphasize the betrayal of Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. And the 30-cent increase, by me offering it, would have constituted the betrayal of working people. It was kind of like an allegory, an analogy. But sometimes life mirrors art. And what started out, when I offered it, as kind of a little artistic attempt to make a point, is slowly being transmogrified into a reality that is going to put us farther down the road in the right direction than we were when we started. So I am hoping that there will be enough votes to adopt Senator Redfield's amendment. One reason I did not offer any statistics, other than when I read Mr. Cunningham's letter, was because I'm not impressed by them really. And the purpose of statistics often is not to educate or enlighten the mind, but to win an argument. And this kind of issue should be argued about. But I want to win it on the status of its being the right thing to do, not base it on statistics. Senator Maxwell started to touch on a matter from that letter that I had intended to talk about at great length. And that's not just the help given to the poor by a decent salary or wage, but you're recognizing and underscoring the dignity that attaches to work. If work or labor is not properly compensated, there is no dignity in that. There is no dignity in being a slave. The reason the northern states and workers in the north were opposed to slavery...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...was not because they saw slavery as immoral, not because they were sympathetic to people of my complexion, but they felt that slavery would degrade labor. The whole concept of labor would be flawed, contaminated, and degraded. And when we don't give a decent wage, we degrade not only the worker, but the work itself that is being performed. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There are no further lights. Senator Redfield, you're recognized to close on your amendment.