

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

April 16, 2003      LB 435

one way or the other, and I'm in the process of talking to people. We're...as you all know, time is everybody's enemy here in terms of trying to get the kind of consensus built that we need to try to build, but that's my intention generally, is not to drag this out in the morning and to get it resolved one way or another here. I don't know what motions have all been filed. Apparently a couple have been filed now. In any event, the bill, in its present stage, as you know, contains the Redfield amendment, which brings the bill down to a matter of increasing the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$5.45 at the first stage, and then to \$5.75 at the second stage, obviously, way down from the \$6.30 that had been originally proposed to you in the bill. So I think that's where it stands, Senator Cudaback, and I think that's all you asked for at this point, right?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler, for the review. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Cunningham would move to bracket the bill until January 1, 2004.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham, you're recognized to open on your bracket motion.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I definitely...you know, I rise up in opposition to the bill, but I definitely feel we need to bracket this and we need to wait and see what the federal government does with the minimum wage. This will be the first time in history that Nebraska has ever gone and given a minimum wage that's higher than the federal government. There's no state in the Midwest that has a higher minimum wage than the federal government. We have some places, and it was on the handout that Senator Beutler gave us yesterday, but places like California, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, places like that, that have a higher minimum wage, but the cost of living is far, far greater in those areas. So, I mean, I think it's just, in my view, it's irresponsible at this point to be pushing this. But yesterday I talked to you about what it did in my store, and I used general numbers, and I used a...I was using the figure of a dollar an hour increase, and how that affected a small town store. Well,