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FLOOR DEBATE

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out. My neck would get thick. I'd have to wear shirts with a bigger neck size. I'd have to let out my belt, get bigger britches, and I think I could probably wear the same size shoe, but I'm just not sure how that operates. Because lobbyists are notorious for being able to change the appearance, as well as outlook, of people in this Legislature than any other group that I know, any other group. And when somebody feeds you, there's a tendency, I suppose, to be more favorably inclined toward what they would have you do. I cannot be as forgiving as some of my colleagues and say, well, they've got their point of view; they're against the minimum wage and that's all right. It's not all right with me. I think it's wrong. I think it's criminal. I think it's immoral. In a country this rich, we should not be insisting that people work for starvation wages, put people into peonage. That should not be, but that's the attitude of the people on this floor. It's Senator Beutler's bill. I'm going to go along with whatever approach he decides to take. He has done a lot of work to even get the bill out of committee, to have it discussed seriously in the way he has managed to do. But in no way is my attitude modified. I don't want to hear any of these senators, although I probably will, standing on the floor saying do something for this particular group or that particular group because they need it. They couldn't need it more than those people on these minimum wage jobs. And like Senator Dwite Pedersen, I know people who are working on minimum wage jobs. I know people who are working on minimum wage jobs and I know people who are poor. I know people who are impoverished. I see impoverished people every day. And I know my attitude is going to be different and you all have to know it's different too. You don't see the poor. You don't see impoverished people. The only way you know about it is to read about it or hear somebody like me say it, and when I say it you discount it because you don't want to believe that I'm telling the truth. You want to think that America is a place where everybody has enough to eat, a place to stay and can afford healthcare for themselves and their children. There are people who cannot buy a box of aspirin, a bottle of aspirin. You all cannot conceive of that. So it's hard for me to conceive of all these old white people who had all the breaks during their whole life not able to have saved enough money to buy medicine when they knew they were going to get old, they knew they were going