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FLOOR DEBATE

April 16, 2003      LB 435

**SPEAKER BROMM:** One minute.

**SENATOR BROWN:** ...makes a difference for that. We have to look at it, obviously, from the people at the very bottommost rung of the scale, and our decisions about welfare in this body have an impact on those individuals. But our decisions also have an impact on the people in this society, good people who want to keep money going around for everyone that works for them, not just for themselves. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Senator Brown. There are no further lights on. Senator Cunningham, you're recognized to close on the bracket motion.

**SENATOR CUNNINGHAM:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I do appreciate the time that you've all spent on this issue. I know it's taken a lot of time. I hope I haven't made too many of you mad, or hopefully I can...we can be friends again, but I just felt that sharing my business with you was the best way that I could explain to you what this really does to business. I know that all of you, in your heart, you're going to do what you think is the right thing for the workers, the business, and we're going to have difference of opinion on that. It's just that my opinion is that raising the minimum wage is not going to be that big boost and big help to our workers that some of the rest of you feel it is going to be. We just have a philosophical difference of opinion. There are 11 states that have a higher minimum wage than the federal government. None of them are in the Midwest, not a single one of them, and that is simply because they have a much higher cost of living in those states than we do here in Nebraska. All I can ask you now is to take the figures I've given you. I'm not going to give them to you again because I know you're bored with all of that. Consider your workers. Consider your businesses. Consider the economy of Nebraska and do what you really think is best. And we are going to have a difference of opinion, some of us, but I do urge you to vote for the bracket on this bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Senator Cunningham. You've heard the closing on the bracket motion. The question is, shall LB 435 be bracketed until January 1 of 2004? All in favor please vote