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pay at the bottom end enough so that we could expect independent, well-disciplined people to provide for themselves, and that we, the government, the people, would not be able...would not be expected to provide for those people except perhaps for short periods of severe stress not caused by their fault, accident, disease. For people at the lower end of the income scale, of course, a severe accident or a severe disease means that they don't...doesn't mean that they dip into their savings because there cannot be, and with the minimum wage being what it is there are no savings, but it means, in fact, that they go immediately upon welfare or on food stamps or have to rely once again on childcare or other government programs. So the standard that they set up differs from what they call the official poverty standard. By that, they mean the federal poverty standard. It's calculated somewhat...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...differently and, again, it looks for a calculation with regard to Nebraska families and then it looks further into seeing how various public work supports public policies, child support and other available resources can help families move towards self-sufficiency. And they are fairly candid in pointing out that there are some problems with the poverty line and those problems I'll get into here on my next opportunity to speak.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, you're recognized, and this will be your third time, Senator,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...outside of closing.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It is interesting to see what they have to say about the federal poverty guidelines because they are somewhat critical, in effect. There obviously has to be some kind of system used to come up with the standards, something short of interviewing each and every person out there, and so what we traditionally turn to is the federal poverty measure and that measure though has become increasingly problematic for a variety