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SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the nation in the amount that we paid, and that's not an isolated fact. That fact relates to everything else that we have in our system, part of which is a little more liberality in the area that Senator Cunningham is attacking now. But make things better for employees that deserve payment, make that payment a little higher? No, we'll just attack the one part of the system. You can't do that. If you want a holistic America, if you want one America instead of two Americas, if you want to have a broad, strong middle class, you cannot have policies like this. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Vrtiska, on the Louden amendment to LB 1049. Senator Vrtiska, did you wish to...Senator Vrtiska, did you wish to address the Louden amendment?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Yes, I want to stand in support of the Louden amendment. I think that what we're looking at, and I think Senator Louden has explained it to you, is that we're penalizing, again, some of the people who...and I understood, I think, Senator Bourne or whoever said that these people are already drawing benefits. But look at the benefits that they're drawing. Some of these people qualified at a time when wages are pretty cheap, and they're on a starvation wage or starvation benefits, because obviously they didn't put that much in. And all we're trying to say is, to keep some of these people to be able to stay in their own home and pay their taxes and their utilities, they need a little bit more money. And basically, that's why they go out and get a job that pays not too great, but they go out and get a job hoping that they can support themselves and not have to depend on some government program to take care of them. So they get a job when they can, and they're laid off, and then they try to apply to get some benefits that their...whoever they work for has paid into. And they're saying they're not eligible...or they're eligible, but they're reduced down half of their Social Security. And because they're on a...the amount that they're drawing is so small, it almost diminishes it completely. So I feel like this is an opportunity, without spending a great deal of money, to help those people who we're talking about this