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working person. Maybe at one time he did. But workers have a way of separating themselves from fellow workers and forgetting what that was, because they've risen to a different class. But I have not forgotten. And I'm going to fight for those people. And in order to do so, I've got to kill Senator Cunningham's bill one way or the other. Not Senator Cunningham; I like him too much for that. He's of value. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of the Beutler amendment, and would yield the rest of my time to Senator Bourne.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Senator Aguilar, members. I wanted to go through a little bit of the economic information. I had talked about some of this on General File. But I wanted to point out that somehow Senator Cunningham thinks that this is a get rich quick program, and it's not. Virtually every dollar of unemployment insurance is immediately spent by laid off workers on expenses of daily living--rent, mortgage, utility bills, groceries, gasoline, medical bills. And the critics of unemployment insurance usually view UI benefits as disappearing from the economy after the benefit checks are sent off to the jobless workers. They forget about the economic impact that unemployment insurance has. And again, I still don't understand why bankers and other finance people were not in committee testifying in opposition to this bill. If these people go for 13 weeks without benefits, they're going to default on their rent payments, they're going to default on their credit card payments, they're going to default on their houses, they're going to default on a lot of things. This is one thing I know I didn't talk about on General File, and it's the state of the economy. In November of 2003, which at the time that I got this was the most recent month for which figures are available, the Bureau of Labor Statistics--now, that's nationwide, that is not just Nebraska, and I'm getting those numbers, though, for Nebraska--reported that there were 8.67 million jobless workers,