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working on this, hoping to be Chair--but I've been sitting down with members of the department, the business community. I've had meetings with some of the organized labor from Omaha. I've got another meeting scheduled next week with those same groups. We're going to schedule an afternoon and sit down across the table from each other for an afternoon, as I said, and try to hammer out a compromise and see if there isn't some common ground that we can come up with to help fix these programs. Actually, the meeting next week is on unemployment insurance. But my promise to you, even though I've gained my life experience in the grocery business on the business side of it, my promise to you is that I will be a fair Chairman. I am not the sort of person that will try to bury your legislation and not bring it up for discussion in an Executive Committee. I will not do that. That is my promise to you. I would tell you again, I feel I'm qualified because of my business experience, my four years in the Legislature. I'm looking forward to the challenge, if you give me the opportunity, and I humbly ask for your vote. Thank you.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Cunningham. The Chair recognizes Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Congratulations to you, Speaker Brashear. Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I place my name in consideration for Chair of the Business and Labor Committee. Very briefly, I just want to discuss what I believe is required of a senator who desires to serve as a committee Chair. It is not just a figurehead selected to oversee a meeting, nor is it a mere prize to be given out. It is a position of great importance to the development of sound, solid policy, and effective work being done on bills prior to coming to the floor for debate. First of all is a sense of fairness. We all know that, around here, about everybody are tuned in to the radio station "WIIFM"--What's In It For Me? And being cognizant of that fact, the effective committee Chair will ensure that all proposals are given a fair and complete hearing, and that all sides have been fairly represented. I do work for Farmland Foods in Crete, Nebraska, which is a union shop. And I work in the management sector of the company, managing our workers' compensation program. I know the importance of fairness, and I