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down here very often because we can't afford it. Senator Langemeier is busy doing appraisals after 8:00 at night. I go to bed at night hoping that Shania Twain's new hit single will make more people listen to country radio in Madison County. But it's more difficult, and I think we close the doors to people if we don't pay them a living wage, and that's what this attempts to do. We shouldn't have any more situations where no one has an opponent. That's what happened in my case and it happened because it's \$12,000 a year. I don't need more than \$12,000, because I signed up for this...I need more than \$12,000, but...my wife says I need more than \$12,000, but I signed up for this knowing how much it was. Let's open the doors to this legislative chamber to everybody in Nebraska. And I would return the balance of my time. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Flood. Senator Mines, on LR 12CA.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. Let me join the singing to the choir. I obviously support LR 12CA. And from my perspective, doubling my salary from \$12,000 to \$24,000 a year won't make a bit of difference to my...to the way I live. It won't make a bit of difference to the net amount of money that I take home to my family. You see, I'm one of the very, very few that are blessed in this body to have an employer that supports service to the state of Nebraska, that feeds my family, that continues to pay me. We adjust my salary based on how much I receive here. So if I receive another \$12,000, it won't affect my take-home pay a nickel. And I have to tell you, there are but a few of us in this body that have that luxury. My employer expects me to do my job. I show up early in the mornings. I work at night. That's...but I knew that going in, and we all knew what we were faced when we came into this body. Will \$24,000 a year attract Nebraska's best and brightest? Oh, I think we've got a good group of best and brightest right here. I don't think doubling the salary is necessarily going to increase or improve the amount of work that comes out of this body. It will not. What it will do is allow those that serve in the body, those that are fortunate enough or that are passionate enough to serve the public for \$12,000 or \$24,000 a year, it will make the product that comes out of this body