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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 312

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Redfield, this is not chicken. In your day, when chicken was engaged in, it would be two vehicles, both of which could do tremendous damage, either to the other. This is more like a herd of buffalo against moi, the prairie dog. I'm standing on principle. I know that I'm going to be steamrolled over, just like on LB 775, and the arguments I made against that bill came to fruition. We have people whining and grumbling about it now who supported it then. The same argument Senator Jensen is giving now were given for that bill. It was going to keep the young people in this state, it was going to provide jobs, and what was that other one...oh, and you can't wait. He's now giving the same arguments and they are as wrong and pointless now as they were then. Senator Landis is not playing chicken. He knows that this motion will not be successful. The whole purpose of this is to give you all a chance to pay your devoir or your respect to business to show that all the horses are hitched to the wagon, they're bending to the harness, and they are eager to pull that wagon and show how devoted they are to business. But I'm not. I'll take my lumps, I'll take my whipping. That's a part of being in this Legislature and being on the right side when everybody else is wrong. Senator Landis mentioned increase in the minimum wage. Who has fought off minimum wage all these years? Business. The ones you all are kowtowing to now, they're the ones who won't allow a minimum wage increase. And I say "allow it" because they own this Legislature. Oscar Wilde was writing in one of his essays that he could understand if poor people and others who were not so poor but were supporting all of the so-called better classes were going to benefit from what they were supporting, but they were not going to benefit, and it boggled his mind. That's what I look at on this floor. You all are not going to get anything. Some of you all will get jobs when you leave here, but that's about the size of it. They can't pay me enough to get me to go along with something I know that's wrong. I would expect that you're going to be served filet mignon this evening for dinner to reward you for what you're doing here. Businesses come to Nebraska for a reason other than these benefits. Why do you think Union Pacific could leap and come here already? They had reconnoitered. They had seen that what is in Omaha is what they need, and had there been none of these benefits they would have