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monetary policy changes your interest rates on a day-to-day basis almost, and we do it, we allow that government interference because we're working with a whole system. And once you seize control of the whole system, as government has, I mean, this is silly to talk about the free enterprise system if you're talking about control of the whole system. Government has structured it. Businesses have gone to government to have it structured. Having a fair playing field is one of the most important things to a business. We have all kinds of rules that structure fair playing fields. Well, how about a little fairness at this end of the system? We used to have that. You know, we had a great minimum wage from the 1950s going into the '80s. I think the country made great strides in that time period. Now how were we able to do that if the minimum wage was so damaging? There is no evidence that I know of, and nor has anybody cited it on this floor, that increasing the minimum wage in a moderate amount, and this is certainly a moderate amount, has any detrimental effect on an area economy. It has a detrimental effect on the families that rely upon that minimum wage and it's at their expense that we profit, and in all fairness we should profit just a little less so that they're being treated fairly, too. Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Oh, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the body. I rise to stand with Senator Beutler and to say thank you to Senator Aguilar for his true, true words. And when he spoke last, he really struck a nerve with me. As many of you know, I worked in the system, in the Health and Human Services System for 34 years, which anyone would admit is a considerable length of time. When I retired to take this job I worked with the retirement system to see what my retirement benefits would be. If I hope to live 20 more years, which would...I would like to think I would, my benefit from those many years of working would be a little over \$700 a month. Kind of puts it in perspective, at least for me. It's not surprising that state workers are retiring and going to work minimum jobs...minimum-wage jobs and taking the bus to get there. That's very sad. Along with this population, we'll now be working harder and harder to have people move from welfare to