

and make recommendations on adjusting the minimum wage in Nebraska, because I suspect strongly that they won't recommend to lower the minimum wage, that they will come in here recommending increasing the minimum wage, so that we can have, as in the terms of Senator Wesely and others, a living wage, and again we are going to be tampering with market forces, and I know it is difficult for some people to understand that. But as soon as you come in and have someone artificially adjust something like this, it throws off all the other areas that are driven by the market out there, by the free market that we have here, supposedly are, or trying to get back to anyway in Nebraska and across the United States. So I don't see...I, for one, will not instruct the Department of Labor in Nebraska to go out and make recommendations to adjust the minimum wage here in Nebraska for any reason whatsoever, certainly not for part of welfare reform, and I hope that people will consider voting against the Chambers amendment, which just adds a date certain, and this portion of the Bohlke amendment, which instructs the Department of Labor to go out to make recommendations to adjust the minimum wage in Nebraska. It is not something the Legislature needs to be doing, and it shouldn't be doing it. Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Mr. President, members, I rise in support of the Bohlke amendment. The section 2 of the amendment providing for the "catalogzation" of all existing job training resources and programs in Nebraska I feel dovetails with a study that the Business and Labor Committee is going to be conducting over the summer. There is a bill that was introduced, LB 885, by Senator Day on behalf of the Governor, that provided for...provided for a single agency to administer the job training programs, currently, performed by the Departments of Labor, Economic Development, and Social Services. And at the time of the hearing, there was a concern that some of the job training programs, first there was a concern about where the job training programs were, how many of them were available to our citizens, and whether or not they were being properly administered. I felt that there was some need for some change in this area of job training and the availability to our citizens, but even though the bill was advanced out of committee, there was still a concern that the bill may have not been thought out quite as well as it was hoped, and that when the bill was originally brought into the committee, there was no