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it being a cost to business, he's right, but he's leaving out one-half of the equation. One of the main goals of unemployment insurance is to accumulate payroll tax revenues in a trust fund during the growth phase of an economic cycle, similar to our rainy day fund, and to automatically stimulate the economy by using those funds to pay increased benefit claims during economic downturns. You accumulate those money when our work...those monies in a fund when our work force is working, and then, when the economy turns south, you access those funds. But you know what we did here in Nebraska? Rather than accumulate those funds, we reduced the amount that employers paid to this fund, and perhaps that was rightfully so. But when Senator Cunningham says that the program is in jeopardy, I dispute that. I don't think that's the case. We reduced the employer contribution to this program when our workers were working and were not accessing the plan. That is contrary to the economists' point of view of how the program should work. The related goals of the unemployment insurance program...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...are providing involuntary unemployed workers with adequate temporary income replacement, as well as automatically stabilizing the economy by using accumulated trust funds...and again, our trust fund wasn't accumulated to the extent it should be because we reduced the contribution to maintain consumer spending during an economic downturn. Secondary goals, including supporting the job search of unemployed individuals by permitting them to find work that matches their prior experience, not necessarily taking any job but one that they can actually support their families with, as well as enabling employers to retain experienced workers during layoffs. Senator Cunningham is absolutely right it's a cost to business, however, he leaves out the economic stimulus component of the unemployment insurance program. When these folks are laid off, they won't have any benefits coming in for 13 weeks. They're not going to be paying their bills. They are not going to be spending money, and I suggest to you that our economy will suffer because of it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator