

(Start of Belt #11)

and the general newspaper. I think you would see the dog-gonedest scurrying for cover you ever saw because there are many instances where individuals with hundred thousand dollar incomes are receiving substantial amounts of money from medical assistance payments and we are here today arguing about whether we pay thirty some...thirty-two dollars more or a few dollars more to some child. Now all of us, if you were to go out to my district which represents Senator Lewis's district, these bills are not popular in those areas, but no one in my area, no one in this state of Nebraska want to deny to a child that care which they need to live in decency, to provide good food and good housing and good clothing, decent clothing. As Senator More points out, we don't want to remove from them the incentive to better themselves and, therefore, we should allow some room and that's the reason for my bill, some room for improving themselves by going to work. But I think it would be enlightening, it would be tremendously enlightening if we were to require the names of the people who receive these amounts of money, nursing homes, doctors, dentists, the whole ball of wax. And then we would put this thing in its proper perspective and I think that we would help correct some of the abuses that Senator Marvel points out we know exists in the program. I have, on my desk which I will hand out later on, a news story that documents some of the abuses that have occurred. To my knowledge, there has been no prosecutions under these...of these abuses. No one has been prosecuted. In fact, they haven't even published the names of those people who have overcharged or who have submitted fraudulent claims. I think, if we really want to get rid of the abuses, that would be the first thing to do that the Department of Welfare would publish the names of those people. They have done so in the case of welfare recipients. Let's publish the names of those people on the other end who have submitted fraudulent claims and when that happens you are going to see a tightening up that will supersede anything that can be done by this body. I'll have a little more to say on that later on, but I would like to hear some other comments in this area.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Skarda. The chair understands we are still speaking on the motion to indefinitely postpone LB 185.

SENATOR SKARDA: Mr. Chairman, I have very little to say but something has been running through my mind for years and years and years and I think it's a contributing factor of the great part of what our difficulty is today and I had an instance the other day I might relate. I have a constituent from my district who has a daughter that came home that lived in Arkansas. She came home with the children and her husband's still in Arkansas, non-supporting and don't get enough to live on and I think that this is an area that we ought to give some serious consideration to. These people that create these problems going Scot free and off the hook, don't contribute and don't intend to and never will and on and on it goes. And the divorce rate in the state of Nebraska is constantly on the increase and along with what Senator Schmit said and what I said, if we could just corral these people that caused and created these problems, these men in particular I'm talking about who get away Scot free and don't contribute absolutely a red cent, and they are all over the country. And we talk about doing something on the federal bases, there is nothing ever done about it. There is no reciprocal, positive agreement between the states to tie this situation down and make these guys pay, instead of the taxpayers as a whole contributing to the package. I think this is one area along with what Senator Schmit had that if we got done, collectively through the states, it'd be a great contributing factor in reducing the overall course and