

one thing that Senator Morrissey and I both do know, and everybody else on this floor will understand, that if you impose this fee, that widow is going to continue to pay property tax plus whatever fee the city assesses against her, you can count on that. So how is this bill going to make the plight of the widow any better? Or the woman who is not a widow, or even the family, which will have two parents, but even as a family unit with two parents, they are poor. As poverty begins to sit on the door of more and more people in this country, some issues that were perceived to apply only to black people and poor, unfortunate, ignorant white women have suddenly become matters that are of concern to everybody, and I am talking about these family leave bills. I am talking about these bills that say provide day care for women who have to work. See, when it applied to black women and poor, ignorant white women, they said those women shouldn't have those babies if they can't take care of them, but now it is happening to the white women who are your kind. So now, all of a sudden, it is all right to say assess taxes or require businesses to take care of those babies that those women should not have had if they couldn't take care of them. Those of us on the underside of the garment have watched how this society functions. We have watched to see how issues rise to the level of concern to politicians, and they are of no concern as long as they affect the poor and those who are considered the "others," those who represent the contrast concept, those who are the aliens. As long as the problem is theirs, it is not a problem, but when it becomes a problem for those like you, then suddenly that plight which has been faced by other groups for generations is discovered for the first time. Why there are women who have to work, and in order to work, they have to find child care, and they...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...can't afford child care. Why I never heard of such a thing. We have got to do something about it, and all of the generations of poor women I am sure have to feel a sense of betrayal and bitterness and cynicism. Should the economy turn around and should some of these women who now have to work no longer have to work, the same hard attitude will reassert itself because the right kind of women no longer face it as a problem. If this were an issue that touched Senator Horgan's people in the way that it touches mine, he'd be joining me. We are going to see if any other issues come up this session where somebody is going to offer an amendment or a bill