

Well, who is going to pay for Mr. and Mrs. Johnson or Mr. and Mrs. Venditte? Mr. Haberman, Mr. Rumery, Mr. Kelly, the ratepayers of this state. I am trying to get figures at this point, and I wish I would have gotten them sooner as to how much the ratepayers of this state pay each year for the so-called deadbeats. It is kind of interesting because one additional piece of information that I did want to bring to your attention, there are private groups and government agencies already providing financial assistance to the elderly and the poor for payment of their utilities. For example, in Omaha, GOCA, The Greater Omaha Community Action received \$85,000 to take care of these people who previously had never had any help. Congress has just earmarked one and one half million dollars to the State of Nebraska for this very purpose and in excess of a quarter of a million dollars is coming to Douglas County. You know I didn't win by very many votes when I came to the Legislature. I received a memo the other day from someone who, well, from Mr. Lane who runs GOCA and he informed me, he said, Senator Venditte, there are one hundred and thirty-five families that are now receiving help as the result of the financial assistance given our agency and you might think that I should be treading a little bit carefully. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I will tell you right now I didn't win by too many more than 135 votes so maybe I should be treading a little carefully but I nonetheless have a concern here and that concern is that we help the deadbeats, that we are helping the deadbeats and I see this bill as doing just that, not all the way but certainly to a large degree. I have discussed this matter with Senator Simon the past few days. I wanted to explain not to just Senator Simon but to the entire body the reason why I wanted to postpone this bill. Senator Simon has indicated to me that he has plenty of votes to pass the bill and I thought it would be important for the record and for the information of my colleagues here to give you the rationale why I made that motion and, subsequent to that in talking to Senator Simon, he has in excess of some thirty votes, I will not waste any more time. I will not waste the paper that comes out of the Clerk's desk. I will not waste the electricity that it takes to record the vote so I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, to withdraw my motion.

PRESIDENT: The motion is withdrawn. We will proceed then with Final Reading on LB 143, Mr. Clerk. Would all members of the Legislature return to their desks? I would remind you we are still on Final Reading and by your rules you should be at your desks. Proceed, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Read LB 143 on Final Reading.