

May 4, 1981

LB 561

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, since we are addressing these issues simultaneously, and since my true intent here is to call in to question the priority of the way we spend money, I would ask unanimous consent to withdraw my motion because as I understand it the next motion is the reconsideration of the ADC appropriation and since that phrases it as Senator Schmit just indicated in a positive fashion, I would withdraw my motion.

SENATOR CLARK: Your motion is withdrawn. The next motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is from Senator Chambers to reconsider the vote on adoption of the Chambers Aid to Dependent Children amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is the identical amendment that was voted down earlier and the senator from Grand Island made a comment about people having gardens who have no land. What is he recommending, that one poor person burns down the neighbor's house to obtain enough land to have a garden? How much food for taking care of a family can be raised on a garden in the middle of a city? Or even if there are people in rural areas, I don't know why the people in rural areas are on ADC. I don't know whether it is because neighbors don't help neighbors or what the cause is. In many instances we can only deal with the symptoms and if there are people impoverished and children hungry, we should not be so vindictive and hateful toward the parents that we say they should have done differently and let the little children suffer, that will teach somebody a lesson. Who is to learn this bitter lesson when children are the victims? I think that the amount which is involved in this amendment is so small compared to the overall budget that it is not going to make that much difference at all in terms of the dollars spent but it will make a profound amount of difference in the amount of good that can be done. So, I am asking that the Legislature reconsider its vote in opposition to this amendment and adopt it. What we are going to have to realize is that those issues that are very dear to us will cause us sometimes to do things that ordinarily we would not like to do. If the Governor decides to veto certain propositions in these money bills, everybody who has a proposition that was added is going to need every vote he or she can get and if the various people who have attached provisions to this appropriations measure feels that the children are not as important as those other things that they have added, then