

May 29, 1981

LB 561

body, before I begin my formal presentation, so to speak, on Senator Schmit's motion, I do want to make sort of a personal comment to Senator Schmit, and that is this, Loran. I have always respected over the many years that I have watched you in the legislative process and worked with you in the legislative process, your compassion for children. It is outstanding. You have always been in the forefront on these issues, and I think that is most important. What Senator Schmit is doing today is asking us to once again think about the well-being of the poor children of this state. I walked outside down the hall a little while ago and I saw Ruth Carsten with two grandchildren, and I said to myself, it's so lovely to see children grow healthy and well nurtured and cared for and loved, because children, obviously, in the truism are the adults of tomorrow, but what we invest in our children will bear fruit tomorrow. It is very important that we take the children of lowly birth, the children that are born into poverty, and we, as a society, give them as good a start in life as we can do. Now you think back to when you had babies, and you remember the love that you invested in them and the financial care that you invested again, and you remember their growing and how you had every good hope in the world that your child would do well, and that child went into elementary school and then into secondary schools and maybe on to college, and maybe on to work, who knows. But you gave what you could to your child. Now it so happens that there are some people in this state that really can't give very much to their child in terms of money because they don't have much money. They don't have much money because they are hardcore unemployed. They don't have much money because they are disabled. They don't have much money because they haven't had a good shot in life themselves. They have poor educations themselves. But they have the same hopes and aspirations for their children as you have had for yours and I have for mine. And it is fitting and proper that we as a state make an irrevocable commitment to their children as to our children, just as Senator Schmit has done over the long pull. This is an important issue. This is a \$1.7 million issue which is an overall budget of 750 some odd million dollars. It is a small amount of money but, frankly, it is the least that we can do for the children of the needy and of the destitute because those children are our children. I urge you to suspend the rules.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, I call the question.