

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I meant I can discuss that now?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes. We are on the first one.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I will be brief, Mr. Chairman, because those people who don't have enough feeling to accept this amendment based on what has already been said will not be persuaded by anything I would say but there is some matters that I have to get into the record. That is why on a lot of these issues I speak, it is the only reason in this body that I will speak on some issues. I hope that what I heard about Senator Cullan trying to get the Health and Welfare Committee to write a letter to the Governor is untrue so since I believe in going directly to the source, I would like to ask Senator Cullan a question. Senator Cullan, briefly, if it is true, and I know that it is not, you intend to write such a letter, could you tell me what you would put in that letter if you were going to write one?

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator Chambers, at this point in time I am going to get some additional information from the Department of Welfare to see if what Senator Johnson has said is accurate, whether or not the cuts that have already been made in ADC are sufficient to fund the expanded coverage that we are talking about here. If that is the case, then perhaps it is not necessary to lower ADC funds but if there were going to be a fiscal impact and it were not possible to obtain funding otherwise, I would recommend a cut in the basic ADC program in order to fund this part of the program because I think this part of the program is important.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I can't believe this session. I sat up in my office and listened to Senator Cullan talk about a friend of his who died of cancer and I thought Senator Cullan was pretty sensitive but in view of this I am beginning to wonder if that is not a ploy to play on people's sympathy. I have seen hungry children, Senator Cullan, and when we can pretend to be so sensitive and concerned about those who don't even live in this world yet, that we will take the little from those who actually live here, I say that principles are distorted and we are not looking at human beings in children but some abstract notion of some particular religious persuasion. I think it is cruelty par excellence to say you are going to pit one group of poor hungry people against another group, an inchoate group at that. I am flabbergasted. Do you know what I wish today? I wish today that I were a Christian who believed in everything that the Christians claim Jesus taught in the Bible stands for because then I could call fire and brimstone down on the head of everybody in this place who would accept what Senator Cullan is talking about. These are the kind of heartless practices that made Jesus say the day will come when not one stone of the temple will-