PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, Mr. President and members, I would
support the amendment.   I think Senator Ashford did summarize it
accurately.   The federal government is asking us to do this.   We
do, I believe, have to take this step.   It would place on the
state   the   administrative   responsibility for this program,
continue to have the counties fund half of the cost of the
program but   I don't know that we have any option at this point
other than proceed with this amendment.   So I would...I would
support the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you.   Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Yeah, Mr. President and members of the
Legislature, initially, perhaps I would ask a question of
Senator Ashford.

PRESIDENT: Senator Ashford, please.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay, hopefully, I can answer it.   I'm trying
to find the actual amendment here.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, I'm not concerned about the actual
amendment as I am concerned about the concept that I think I
understood you to say and that is it may be only complying with
the   federal audit and I certainly understand that.   But what I
would question is whether or not the state can administer under
our State Constitution the prohibition of property tax for a
state purpose, whether it can administer the $250,000   that is
raised through property tax at the local level.   I would have a
strong doubt in my mind, at least, that that is possible and it
may well be that the way it's drafted that somehow or other it
is.   But in some instances, at least, that issue may result in a
county refusing to pay on that basis and if one does, they all
will, and then you have a program with no money.   And if there
is a (interruption).

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, I think that the department...I believe
the department...and maybe Senator Wesely can help out on this,
but I believe the Department of Social Services can contract for
those services to be provided still by the county and that that
would be appropriate to do.

SENATOR WARNER: I...if the...that's different than what I heard