

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is your answer to my question, no, that the bill does not set up such programs? That's all I'm asking.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Senator Chambers, the bill is enabling legislation to allow the counties and the state to help these people to get them into job training programs. That's all the bill does.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'll see if one of the other co-sponsors can help me. Is Senator Goodrich here? Senator Dierks, is Senator...Senator Dierks, well maybe...oh, Senator Lynch, I don't see him. Senator Dierks, does this bill set up any educational or job-training programs itself?

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Chambers, not that I'm aware of.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, thank you. I didn't think so, but I wanted to be sure I wasn't misreading the bill. Members of the Legislature, this bill does take an approach that tends to be punitive and in Douglas County, of which Omaha is a city, an ordinance was recently passed dealing with graffiti, talking about gang graffiti on walls, and they're wondering how they are going to get it taken off. And the ordinance places the onus on the property owner. They've been talking about finding voluntary organizations and other individuals who can be used for this work. Anybody who has a child six-years-old or older, can be forced into this kind of a program. So you could have women, conceivably, being ordered to go out here into an area that people who, in order to try to exploit a situation say, is dangerous because gangs are putting this graffiti out there to mark their territory, sending her to take this graffiti off in an area where grown men may not feel too comfortable openly doing such a thing. This bill sets no guidelines whatsoever as to the type of work or even whether it has to have any dignity about it. And I know there is some people who have the attitude that if a person is so distressed economically that he or she...

SENATOR LABEDZ: One minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...will seek assistance from the government, then that person is entitled to no dignity, no respect and the presumption must be made that they choose to be poor and choose not to work. As these problems develop more and more throughout the state, there has been a lessening of this attitude because