

This has become so obnoxious and abhorrent to me that I probably will not support LB 315, and although it might be difficult for people who have to receive unemployment compensation to understand, the best policy decision might be to kill this bill. The baggage that it carries, if weighed against what the bill was designed to do that could be considered good, that baggage is so great that the bill should not be allowed to live. When I consider the problem of homelessness in this society, a democratic country in 1990, which goes around the world and tells everybody else how to conduct their business, which will use the CIA, which will hire terrorists to commit illegal acts against other governments to bring them down in the name of democracy, then we see the fruits of democracy by looking at what happens in America and maybe democracy isn't so good. When the rate of homelessness increases, when a Legislature will enact legislation which can have no effect other than to increase the amount of homelessness, something is wrong with democracy. The problem could be in the definition and who is providing that definition. If we define a thing by its operations, then democracy as practiced in this country is sham and a hoax. No government anywhere in the world ought to be brought down in order that homelessness can be increased, in order that cruelty can become institutionalized in the enactments of its legislature. This is a cruel proposition that has been put into LB 315 and Senator Wesely's amendment attempts to mitigate it just a small amount. Senator Hefner, these sick people can still be fired. We can still take away their job. We can still deprive them of an income. We can make their families hungry. We can send them to the public dole. We can require their little children to go about barefooted and ragged. We can still do that, Senator Hefner. We can get our pound of flesh from them. We can reduce them to a level of destitution. We can behave in the best tradition of Christianity by taking from them that which they need to live at a decent standard. Senator Wesely is not saying that we should allow these people to continue to work.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, they'll still be unemployed. Senator Wesely is not saying that we must provide those people with adequate shelter. They can still be thrown out on the street. All he is saying is that if there is not a treatment program available, then let these people get that tiny bit of unemployment compensation, and to me, that is the minimum that