

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you. Senator Schmit. I don't see Senator Schmit. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I was in my office listening with great interest to the debate on this measure. Some of the words that I hear ring hollow to me. But I'm not going to comment on the program itself, other than to say this. There are many programs that can be used for political purposes by giving the impression that something is being done when it's not. If there are people starving, would it better to stop making the pretense that you're going to feed them? Or is it better, in a mocking kind of way, give the impression that, yea, I have the food, all you have to do is come and eat, knowing that there is nothing in the cupboard. It's barer than what was the case with Mother Hubbard. Now, having said that, I have got a little fable that I want to relate. Briefly, Mr. Chairman. There was a dog who had a bone and he was walking across a bridge and he looked over the edge of the bridge and there was a placid little pool of water. It created a perfect reflection but what the dog saw in the reflection was a bone in the mouth of a dog and the bone he saw in the reflection looked bigger than the one he had in his mouth. So when he opened his mouth to make a move on the reflection he lost the real bone. They usually say, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. A bone in the mouth is sometimes worth more than what looks like may be available in a reflection. Sometimes it's wise to take what might be available, but what you have to actually look at is the possibility that nothing is available. If it's difficult to get a half a loaf, it will be impossible to get a bakery. There are people who have spoken in favor of Senator Pirsch's proposition and I actually wonder if it was a wise thing to put the program in place in the first instance. It's one of those kinds of things that allows a lot of very high sounding words to be spoken about but there is going to be nothing delivered, nothing delivered. I'm going to watch and see how this vote occurs. I have a very strong temptation to raise other issues that would be appropriate but I'm not going to do that. Senator Baack, I don't want to muddy the water and erase the reflection that somebody may see. Notice, I haven't said who's got the bone and who's likely to lose it. I just gave a little fable to the best of my recollection.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Ashford, you're next.