

reductions. But in the past things dealing with issues like ADC payments for pregnant women, a statutory change was needed to bring that issue to the Legislature. It became part of the Appropriations Committee package. That one we happened to vote down, but it's been done countless times in the past and there is nothing abnormal about this procedure whatsoever. The committee amendments simply, again, place the bill in the form of which we were...the introducer indicated was his intent and the committee amendments should be adopted.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. We will now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Ashford, would you like to open on the bill itself?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President and members, before I start with my opening I would just briefly respond to Senator Robinson's comments. I hope that in this debate, it's hard enough to bring a bill to the Legislature which cuts programs. Then to have to answer personal attacks in the same time I think makes it exceedingly difficult and so I hope in this debate we can just center on the issue and discuss the issue in an up front manner and decide on the merits whether or not we want to keep this program at the same level or whether we want to cut it back, and I offer that challenge to my esteemed opponent and so that we can keep this debate on a reasonable level. With that, I will talk a little bit about this bill. First of all, some of the things that it does not do. Initially, as I said, this bill does not cut out or terminate the wards of the court program. There has been some misconceptions thrown around. I know some of my colleagues have gotten, received telephone calls from their various school districts saying that if you vote for this it will cut \$200,000 out of our budget or \$300,000, I guess, 200,000 from Millard and a lot of that is misinformation. And I do have, I know Liz Hruska has and I have a list of the school districts in the amount of money that would be lost if this program was cut back. So, I invite you to look at that list and make your own determination on it. Secondarily, the...as I said when I initiated this debate and I talked about in the Education Committee and in the Appropriations Committee why, the question