

September 28, 1992 LB 20

General File. I do have committee amendments pending. Senator, would you like to offer your amendments to the committee amendments now, or do you want to...

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, why don't we go ahead, that will be...

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Wesely and Lindsay, as co...as primary sponsors, have filed amendments to the committee amendments that take priority. Senator, AM48S. (Wesely-Lindsay amendment appears on page 97 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: (Microphone not activated.) ...in the background, and then Senator Lindsay can get into the amendment, if that's okay. The committee, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, LB 20 is probably the main event we've all been waiting for as the preliminary rounds are finally over, and perhaps the major battle of today and into the special session is about to begin. This bill deals with the important program of ADC and a program to assist our poor pregnant women, to, hopefully, be able to have a healthy pregnancy, bear healthy children and in the early years of their lives be able to provide for the care of those young children. Nebraska, about ten years ago, a little over ten years ago, became the only state, one other state has something like the program we have, that continue to provide ADC cash payments for individuals at the point at which pregnancy was verified. About that time, ten years ago, the rest of the country moved to a point at which the federal government matches, under the Medicaid program, coverage starting at seven months of pregnancy. And the option is there to begin the ADC payments at birth of the child. So we considered this legislation which would take us away from the point at which we provide ADC payments, at the point of verification of pregnancy, to begin those, under the original bill as introduced, at the point of birth of the baby. There was a concern in the committee about making the change with those individuals now receiving grants under this provision. And as we talked about with the tuition bill we just had, and some of the other issues, we're changing the rules of the game in the middle of the game, so to speak. Currently, if you take the change to the point at which the baby is born to begin the payments, there are something like 1,269 monthly cases affected, monthly individuals affected by this change, 1,269. Now, 759 of those individuals are now on ADC, and so the amount of their