

cover the cost of shelter expenses, that's rent, utilities, food, clothing, home and laundry supplies, transportation other than for employment, she can't use and doesn't get a stipend to get her to work, and a lot of them work, furniture, appliances, basic subsistence. You can't possibly make any money on this stipend that goes to these mothers. And the thing that concerns me this week in particular, and I talked so much last week and said so many things, I'm trying not to say the same things again, one of the things that concerns me is that we talk and listen and get a lot of coverage in the media about hurricanes, earthquakes, Somalia, Serbia and the children who were killed in Iraqi, yes, and our hearts go out to them, and we'd like to help all of them. But because the AFDC dependents are not the victims of some dramatic occurrence of nature, or a war or something, then we sort of shove that under the rug and think that they're not so important, or that they don't need anything. Well, they do, they need basic nutrition. Now I know they get...we get...the mothers get WIC, Woman, Infants and Children supplements, they get food stamps. But let me tell you, a family, a mother and one child gets the ADC payment of \$293 plus the food stamps, that brings up the income to \$496. The poverty level is \$740. If she takes a job for minimum wage, and you know how many minimum wage jobs there are in the State of Nebraska, there are a tremendous number. Most of them can't work full-time. If they work part-time and bring home \$360 a month, she still does not have much cash. And a lot of these women, you'd be surprised how many of these women are left by a husband, they might have a home, they might have a lot of things, material things, but because the husband takes off and leaves them flat, they can't do anything with those. He has mortgaged them to the hilt, he has borrowed money without her knowing it, and they are left with the child and no resources. So this is what I'd like you to look at is the people that you are talking about, and the people that we are looking at, and they're people here in the State of Nebraska. Now right here in Lincoln, Omaha, Broken Bow, wherever, that's where they are, not out in California, or New York, or someplace, right here. And I'm going to send around one more thing. But also look at that statistic or that second page...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CROSEY: ...highest percentage of them are white, that's the other thing that a lot of people think they're minorities, they are not. They're a combination of whites and minority.