

September 28, 1992 LB 20

full child care, I did not know that, for a family of 6.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: The food stamps, \$1,942 a month, still get food stamps if you're on welfare, and the maximum is \$2,000 a month income. So I'll tell you what is shocking is to me, I think, self-employed people and people that don't have insurance, actually if a lot of them knew how much is available, and social service said to me, Arlene, the system is growing. And I don't see any...one thing is I don't see that the social service workers are doing anything at all to try and control this cost. We, as taxpayers, depend upon them to be the watch dog. But I simply wanted to point this out to you. I did not know that you could have this much income and still qualify for full Medicaid. It blows my mind, and the system is wrong in that respect, when people need it, as we've been talking about now, and can't get it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR NELSON: If you know the system, you can get it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened to Senator Nelson, and I heard you give that to us in appropriations. There simply has to be an exception. Again, I say, there are ways, if the social services say that the system is not working, you can report what you think is fraud to the...social services do have investigators and people who monitor and try to ferret out that fraud. Along with that, you do have the auditors hot line. And anyone who...I urge people, anyone who calls me and says that they think that even elderly, sometimes, are accused of taking advantage of the Medicaid program, when they're in the nursing home. And I tell them to report it either to the auditor's hot line, or to social services. You don't have to identify yourself, and you can find out and see whether or not these things are actually happening. And so far as the women in Grand Island who are left behind because Monfort hired the illegal immigrants, there again I try very hard, as I said earlier, not to judge people for this...They get themselves into a situation. A man comes along and promises them the blue lights and everything that goes with it. And if they'll take...that man will take care of her, don't worry about