

September 29, 1992 LB 20

didn't even argue about it, they killed the bill. That was when we had a big surplus of money, that was when we had a big surplus of money, we could have done it. We took that surplus and gave it back in 25, \$30, \$100 increments to the property owners, and I voted for that, and that's fine. Property owners need to have some relief, because on the local level they certainly are the ones who support local government. But the elderly are sitting there worrying whether or not their Medicaid payments are going to be snatched away now, whether they're going to be able to stay in their homes and have home care and so on, because there again this whole thing is tied in to the Medicaid thing, the Medicaid programs and the Medicaid shortfall that we are showing right now because of the lowering of the federal match and also because more people have been made eligible for Medicaid and more benefits are given with Medicaid payments. All of those things tie in. And it's very difficult to say, well, we'll cut this one off, or we'll cut that one off, but that's what's going to happen. If you have money and can pay for health insurance, you're going to get the care you need, if you don't, you won't. Speaking of people say, well, we'll have to ration health care, it's rationed right now. If you can pay for it, you get it, if you can't, you don't. And this is what's happening on the Medicaid benefits, and this is why we are here. I agree with Senator Chambers, I didn't ask to have this special session. The Governor thought that we needed to attack this program...this problem right now, and came along and took one group of people and said, well, we'll take this 3 or \$4 million away from them, and that will help solve our problems. There aren't any other programs that have been hit like that. It's a bad hit against one group of people who cannot defend themselves. Sure, they can come down and some of them...one young woman whom I work with did come to the hearing, but most of them don't have time to do that, nor the transportation. They don't have someone to stay with their children. And remember, again, they don't get this money unless they have children, it's children that we're talking about really, it's children. So this amendment that would at least begin the payments during the last three months of pregnancy, while I don't like the bill and won't vote for the bill in the end, at least this would help it a little if all of you who seem to be following the leader are going to vote for it. And I will say this is a strange combination of people here on the floor. But I have a lot of people who have been helping me from the very beginning, and they're good friends, and they are people who are always there to help each other, and to help us...