

September 29, 1992 LB 20

earlier, there has been a lot of discussion along the way for the last 20 years as to whether or not people should get payments as of this kind. And here's one. AFDC payments can be made to an eligible relative up to 30 days before the child is placed in the care of that relative. Since at the time a relative receives such payments he is not caring for a dependent child, the payments are obviously beyond the statutory parameters just as obviously, however, such payments will enable the relative to purchase necessary food, clothing, toys and household items. So when the child does come into the relative's custody, proper care can begin immediately. Now that's for an eligible relative, not a mother, not a father, an eligible relative. So there are other times that we do things like this. I think that...I still feel that this is a put-down of a group of women who have been receiving these payments and who are going to have them taken away. I do not like that and I do not like having one group of people separated from everyone else that are going to take a direct cut. Now I know the Medicaid payments, a lot of those are influx, but those have not been taken away yet actually. What we're trying to do is make up for some of them. And as I said this morning, we are pitting the needy against the needy. And Senator Lindsay said up to now we haven't ever talked about the issue. Of course we've talked about the issue because the issue is whether or not these women and these babies will be taken care of. That's the issue. And what you're doing is trying to make the issue look like we're going to balance the whole budget on the backs of these women and babies. So I go back to my amendment to the bill on page 4, line 21, strike "upon birth" and insert "at the end of the third month of gestation." I think that's reasonable. It gives her some time from the last six months, the last six months of the pregnancy. After the first 12 weeks, the last 6 months can be crucial because you have, if there are any complications, well, you need help and care and I understand because he's going to come back and say that she has food stamps and she has all these other things, but you know, some people have said they can't spend food stamps except for whatever is on the list so what we really need is a group of elite supermarket cops to stand at the checkout stands and be darned sure that she spends that money and those food stamps for what she is supposed to spend them for. This is what I don't like about this bill. It is a condemnation of women saying that they don't know how to take care of themselves and they don't know how to spend this money. So you can see I'm getting a little agitated. I am because I've heard all these things before and I thought maybe we would get