

September 29, 1992 LB 20

it trying to improve it the more complexity is built into it then eventually there can be situations where one thing does not mesh with another and there can be conflicting and even in some instances contradictory provisions. So this discussion has forced some of us to look at the problems in the delivery of assistance to people who really need it. I will say again what I said yesterday. I am not in favor of people beating the system and by that I mean those who don't need the assistance finding a way to get it. So none of us are advocating that. We are all speaking from the standpoint of those people who need the aid. Yet, while Senator Moore and others who support LB 20 are trying to cut this assistance, none of them is able to say that the assistance is not needed. None is able to say that the women receiving it are not in a bad way. So if that can be conceded and the principle upon which assistance is extended by the government is that of demonstrated need, then whatever is necessary to justify that aid has been shown to exist. This program has been operational for some time and until it was decided that there would be some cuts, the program was secure. Naturally when cuts are to be made, the targets sought out are those which are the easiest to hit. If I were told that I have an opportunity to get \$1,000 if I can take a slingshot and hit a target and one of them is the size of that wall in the front of the chamber and the other is the size of a dime and I can choose which one I'm going to shoot at, I'm going to shoot at the one the size of the wall because it's easy to hit. So when cuts have to be made, which would you rather deal with--a force that is strong and able to fight back or one which is vulnerable, dependent and in a subordinate position? It's obvious that the latter will be selected and that is what we are demonstrating by the course that this session so far has taken. The weak and the vulnerable are the easy target, therefore, they are the ones who are given this devastating hit. Unlike Senator Moore and others, I don't believe that when you take this money away and leave the other things there that that is adequate to meet the needs of these women. First of all, that aid does not come up to poverty level so what we're saying is that we don't want you to die of starvation or die of illness. We don't want to give enough to make you well, we want to give you enough so that you're sick but you can nevertheless...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...survive in your sickness. We don't want to give you enough for you and your children to be full when you