

September 29, 1992 LB 20

the three-month one, then I can't support the bill; and I want to explain why. I think probably most of us in this body have never been poor and we've never been pregnant and we've never been alone without a job, without parents to support us. We've never been in a position that would be absolutely frightening to, I think, most of us if we were in that position. And I'm looking at the scenarios painted under Senator Wesely's handout and I'm looking at scenario 2 and the 17-year-old who is pregnant and ADC, head of household, not living with her parents, she has no other children. If she finds out she's pregnant and there are no ADC payments for her until the child is born, the only thing that she really has is the \$111 a month food stamp allotment. Don't you think that she's going to be very discouraged about carrying that child to term? Don't you think that abortion is going to be the easy way out for that mother? I mean who...how can the state turn its back on these women? If we do, I think we're encouraging abortion. I don't want to ever be in the position of doing that. If you look at scenario number 4, a pregnant 20-year-old expecting twins, if ADC payments are eliminated, she gets nothing. She has an \$111 food stamp allotment. What kind of thoughts do you think are going to run through her head? Ladies and gentlemen, I think we're talking here about more than just these payments. I think we're talking about some other policies that need to be considered very carefully and very seriously. I said earlier today that I didn't think it was fair to pick on one segment of society. That if we're going to do this that those who are enduring the pain have at least got to know that other people are taking hits, too. And I don't see much evidence of that. But the problem with this whole appropriations and budget cutting process is that we don't get many choices. We don't get either A or B before us, we really just get A. And if we choose, as a policy today or tomorrow it may be, not to accept all of LB 20 but to instead at least see that those payments are made for the three months immediately before the birth, then I think we have a responsibility to look elsewhere. I think we'll have to do that in November when we come back. And I'm willing to do that. I think there are other areas that we can look at. Just because the only ones we have before us...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...this week are the bills that were introduced here, that's not the end and we'll be back in November and we can make other policy decisions if we have to