

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: (Record vote read. See pages 1590-91 of the Legislative Journal.) 11 ayes, 18 nays on the amendment to the committee amendments, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Witek amendment fails. Is there any further amendments?

CLERK: Senator Witek would move to amend. Senator, I have AM1561 in front of me. (The Witek amendment appears on page 1591 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, my next amendment deals with the section immediately following. Section 15 talks about the standard of need for aid to dependent children payments shall be adjusted on July 1st of every second year, beginning July 1, 1997. The adjustments shall be made on the basis of the rate of growth of the Consumer Price Index as determined by the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics for the previous year. The aid to dependent children payment made shall not be greater than the amount specified by Section 43-512. My amendment strikes this provision from the committee amendments. If we're tying...first of all, I don't believe we should tie this to any rate of growth. I think it's something that we should leave for decision making for that immediate...if we tie it to the Consumer Price Index and we hit high inflation or something, this could go up considerably. And if you're tying it to any index, in my opinion, you're tying the hands of people who can make this decision much more locally to the...to whatever is necessary, whatever adjustments need to be made at the time that this decision is made. And I'm not opposed to saying that it should be made every so often, to setting a time frame to reviewing ADC and the costs of ADC and adjusting that, that's not what my opposition is. I'm saying that should be done. We should look at it. Whether you want to look at it every year or every two years, that's fine, but what I'm saying is we should not tie it to the Consumer Price Index and say that it must be this amount or tied to the Consumer Price Index and set it this amount. Unless you're going to tie the opportunity to pay taxes or the opportunity for everybody's income to be tied to the Consumer Price Index, what I'm saying is, these things change