

misconception, Senator Witek, and when you close you might clear that up as to who those individuals might be, because if they are people...thanks, Don. If they are people in Social...the staff members and supervisors and caseworkers, and so on, in Social Services, they need some kind of guideline, some kind of measure to go by. They can't just pick a number out of the air and say, we'll go with this one. I really believe that and so I see nothing wrong with at least having CPI as a barometer so they can...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...decide if the needs...if the needs statements and the needs involved need a little bit of...there are...and when you talk about retirement or pensions in private business, I don't think there are COLAS, but there are COLAS on some retirement plans. So there's all kinds of factors here and, again, we're not talking about wealthy people, we're talking of people...about people mostly who do not have very much when it comes to resources of any kind. They're living in substandard housing, a lot of them, and most of it is because these women, because they had faith in some man that they should not have had faith in, but I cannot condemn them for that and I think we do need to keep that in mind today. As we work our way through all of these amendments, remember we're talking about women and children. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate those remarks, Senator Crosby, and you summed up, I think, what a lot of us are feeling about the whole bill as far as that's concerned. Senator Wesely, if I could ask you to yield to a question or two, I would sure appreciate it.

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR BROMM: I have seen lawsuits over what it means to adjust things to the Consumer Price Index and so I want to be sure that we're clear on the record and that I understand what we're doing with the proposed adjustments that you're speaking of. From a mechanic's standpoint, when it comes July 1 of 1997 and the first adjustment is made, let's say the CPI is 350, what is that supposed to be compared to, the CPI on what prior date, how do we make that mechanical adjustment? Can you explain that