SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...Senator Wesely talked about we can arrive at something that will be very solid.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If Senator Wesely is on...is he on the floor? If he would answer just a couple of quick...quick questions. Senator Wesely, I think I understand what you've articulated relative to the standard of need and what I'm...what I'm wondering is if the standard of need is increased, whether or not you would agree that the number of people eligible will also increase?

SENATOR WESELY: Right, because it's a qualifying standard...

SENATOR MAURSTAD: That's correct, isn't it?

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay. And is it...is it safe to assume that if the number of people that qualify goes up that the cost of all the programs that we're looking at will also rise?

SENATOR WESELY: It will go up if you have a broader pool. Again, you have an adjustment though. You know, you don't get the full cash payment. If you have a higher level income, you get a partial payment. It could be ten, twenty dollars a month perhaps.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Sure. I mean, and that's the way it is now but if you increase the number of people in the pool, we're going to pay out more benefits. I think that's safe to assume with this measure increase and it's probably one reason...thank you,...

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...I don't know that I'm going to ask any other questions, and it's one reason why the standard of need probably has only been increased three times in the last 14 or 15, 16 years because it's either that the body has ignored this particular aspect of the welfare program, which I doubt. I