

whole purpose of this welfare reform bill, is to encourage people to go to work. First of all, welfare, when it was originally established, was to be a temporary situation, not a permanent situation. And if we enact CPI, it seems to me that we are looking at not a temporary but a long-term situation. You all know my background is from construction and real estate, and when I had several thousand square foot of leases and real estate I loved to have a CPI adjustment and the reason I did is because that if you could get a CPI adjustment in a lease, you had a good lease because the longer it went, the higher the lease went and the more income that you generated. I don't believe that if we have a welfare program here that we need a CPI adjustment. A CPI adjustment is something that is removed from the table and it just automatically occurs. Let's allow people to go to work. Let's allow people to escape the welfare system. Let's give them the dignity of having a job and let's get that as soon as possible. I would like to give the remainder of my time to Senator Maurstad.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad, three and a half minutes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A member raised the question of wages versus benefits and the reason very appropriately that we need to be very concerned about what we're dealing with in this bill. And a lot of that concern of the wages available to many of these people that are affected are because businesses can't afford to pay anymore for the skills that a lot of these individuals possess and that's why the job training, education, personal initiative and the job creation efforts, not only in this bill but in other bills that we're working on are so important and need to be kept in mind relative to the totality of this particular issue. And my last...my last comment is just one that indicated that maybe we weren't fighting over the costs associated with welfare reform, and I would submit to you that I think that there is a great deal of concern over the costs associated with this and our discussion really a lot of times revolves around who is responsible for those costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Maurstad, your light is the next one on. The question is, shall debate now cease? Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate now cease? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote nay. Okay, the question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.