

of two hours round trip to go to a training program. That means somebody in Omaha would have to find a way to get to Lincoln and then back to Omaha or they'd be cut off and that's just to get training or employment. If we are serious and we say that jobs are what will be the basis for getting people off welfare, why did we not require that this information be brought to us? It was a part of the statute. So, Senator Jensen, instead of carrying through on the promise that was made on what was held out to the public as to what the Legislature was doing, that was not done. Nothing has been submitted to the Legislature. That group of people on that round table, business people did not have enough interest and concern to do anything about the job question. Who better than they have the information or access to it? They could have gotten the chambers of commerce around the state to assist them, but rather than carry through that requirement is to be repealed from the statute. So you got the waiver that will allow the state to tell people you're off assistance after two years, but providing the employment opportunities is not required. People have said this bill is not antichild, this bill is not antipoor, this bill is not antiwomen. They say this bill is prowork. To work you need a job. If there was as much sincerity about helping people find work as there is in throwing them off under any and all circumstances, we would have some information about jobs submitted to us. So the Governor, because it was referred to as his task force on welfare reform, Bob Armstrong who worked with them, the two of them have greatly disappointed me, especially Bob, because Bob knows how important employment is. As the Director of the Omaha Housing Authority, he has tried to put in place training and education programs so that people in public housing can learn a trade, can earn some money and, if possible, remove themselves from public housing. But if they must stay there then they can move from the projects into a scattered site house and have enough money and wherewithal to maintain it. Then when we come to a state program we're going to throw people off with no jobs. The unions ought to be saying something about this; even Senator Witek, and I don't say that facetiously, should at least look seriously at this. This is not something I'm bringing up at the last minute. This was put into a piece of legislation and was a statutory directive and it has been there...

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.