

earlier, you may recall, when a certain meat packing company in Omaha, where there are quite a few aid to dependent children families, where a meat packing company in Omaha was recruiting in Texas to fill jobs in Omaha. Now I'm sure the public is asking, well, if we have aid to dependent children families in Omaha and there are these jobs in Omaha, why aren't these people going to those jobs? And I'm sure one of the answers has been the impediments of federal law. And I would like to ask you this, if under a self-sufficiency contract, it was so...it could be so constructed that that person would be required to take those jobs as a work experience or as work under the new program? Is that correct or not correct?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Senator Beutler, that is correct in allowing that work experience while they are on the program to be able to go to private industry. It's been precluded to do...in doing that before this.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. I wanted then to move from the first waiver, which was (a) on page 8, to the second waiver which says, permit job search to extend beyond eight weeks each year. And, as I understand it, under current law, you can require them to search for a job for eight consecutive weeks and then you can extend that to an additional period of eight consecutive weeks in any 12-month period. But, under the new law, and expand on this a little bit if you would, to the extent that it fits into the self-sufficiency contract, you could require them to search for jobs constantly for as much time as was appropriate. Is that correct?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Right, and this really works two ways, Senator Beutler. It works for the clients in that we all realize and I'm sure we have all heard stories about people who are unable with college degrees to find a job right now and probably would not be able to do that within that time frame under current law. The problem is with the current welfare plan that's all the federal government will pay for, is that amount of time that they're searching for a job. So they have agreed to waive that and pay that money for that job search during that 12-month period, which means that that's going to be better for the client but also then better for the probability of them finding a job and getting off the welfare system.