

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I did circulate among the body two articles, one from the Boston Globe about a year ago at this time. It talks about an individual who came here from Puerto Rico in 1968. Her name is Eulalia Gutierrez. She has now, from coming to the United States, she has been in the same project ever since she got here over 20 years ago. She has raised 17 children and what really brought her case to light was that she had a daughter who severely scalded her four-year-old son. She has..from this family, there are two young men who are in jail, and of the 17 children, now there are 74 grandchildren, virtually all of who have come of age and are now entering the welfare system themselves. The cost estimated somewhere between 750 and a million dollars for one family, one family. I think the time has come, and certainly as I went door to door last fall I heard from my constituents and Senator Beutler, I think, used the word that said that people are inflamed. My public, my constituents are inflamed at the cost of welfare and at the irresponsibility of some of the welfare recipients. I'm not saying all of them, I'm saying some of them, and they really are concerned and it is time that we put responsibility back into people's lives. President Clinton talks about we need to change the welfare system as we know it. Certainly, the Republican Congress have acted on that. We need to reward those who work and we need to reward those who want to get off the system and then those who are irresponsible because of their actions, all those in the private sector, all the families out there decide how many children that they can afford. And when they do have another child, can they go to their employer, can they go to their boss and say, I'm pregnant, I need more money? No, they can't do that. But here we can reward somebody for having another child. I also passed out an article from the Wall Street Journal and Senator Pirsch mentioned that. Surveys, the very last paragraph says surveys also show that the American public is not primarily concerned with the cost of welfare programs but the rise of illegitimacy, so why not concentrate on these concerns instead of moaning about welfare caps. That's pretty strong language but still I think it is time to look at people's lives, to end the welfare system as we know it, to make people responsible for their own actions, to encourage them to have a job, to encourage them to stay married and encourage family planning just like all the rest of us in society have done. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bohlke.