

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The speaking order that I have on the Dierks amendment is as follows: Senator Lindsay, Chambers, Beutler, Dierks and Bohlke. Senator Lindsay, on the Dierks amendment.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, the...just to remind us what the Dierks amendment would do is to strip out of the bill the family cap, the child exclusion provision which limits the...which would have the effect of limiting the amount of benefits which would...could be provided to a family in the form of assistance. I guess I want to start off with looking at the why do we want to do it. And that is the question. When I say why do we want to do it, I think the burden on this should be when we're reforming welfare why do we want to make this change from current policy. And we've heard some arguments as far as why...what those whys would be. I tend to agree with Senator Schimek, when...as much as I hate to (laughter), I tend to agree with Senator Schimek that when she spoke late this morning she indicated that women aren't going to be motivated to have children by the extra \$71 a month and they're not going to be motivated to not have children by the extra \$71 a month. I don't think that's going to happen either way. If it is, certainly we get into the issue which popped up a little bit this morning on the question of, is that a good policy? If they are going to be motivated, is that going to be a good policy then to encourage...if they're going to be motivated by the money, they're going to be motivated to terminate the pregnancy by money, and is that going to be a good policy? I don't think that that's going to be the motivation. So we move on down and figure out what could be the next rationale for passing this policy, for adopting this policy. And the rationale we've heard is that, at least what I've seen from the waiver or the rationale for the waiver, is it would extend the responsible decision-making process to ADC families. That, I believe, is...neglects the facts of what goes on. And I've been given some information from...from the group in support of Nebraska's children that I think most of you have. One of the items or figures that I noted on there, and that was pointed out to me, was the fact that the birthrate among those on ADC is lower than the birthrate among those not on ADC. And what that indicates to me is, for the most part, that responsible decision making is going on. But, more importantly, more importantly, what we see are some of these articles, like this one that was handed out, on a woman who had raised