

idea of cashing out food stamps and helping people learn how to budget their food resources and buy for the month and all of that sort of thing is part of the idea. I don't know if we can go directly from one system to another system quite as well. I tend to lean toward what Senator Witek is going to talk about and that is the debit card. While it...while debit card facilities aren't probably totally available in the State of Nebraska, I do know that debit cards and bar coding registers are available in almost all of the supermarkets in my rural district and I suspect that on balance we would probably be better off staying with the paper food stamp for a limited amount of time until the debit card system was available to the people in the State of Nebraska fully across the state. It's a coming thing. It's rapidly, rapidly coming, and it would provide the transition, I think, from food stamps to cash which people end up with, hopefully, if they go out of the welfare system and into the job market and earning their own way and earning the money and having to budget the money for their own...for their own groceries. So while I don't disagree with the philosophy of cashing out food stamps, I think that it may not work quite as well as what the planners think it would and may well, as Senator Janssen indicated, create some very negative situations in individual families who have not had the training or perhaps even the ability to budget within the resources they have available to them. I would much prefer transitioning into the debit card than to the cash out. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Mr. President, you haven't looked so well to me in so long, but then usually I'm closer to you when I look at you and I don't have my glasses on right now so I guess that kind of evens things up. But here's what I wanted to ask Senator Bohlke. Senator Bohlke, you mentioned something happening in Alabama and, based on my attitude about that part of the country in general, they're not an example to me of anything, but I want to ask you a question on this. You said for two years that this had been done in Alabama. Did they have that family cap in place in Alabama where if another child was born, after a woman was on welfare, that child would get no assistance? Do you know if that was in place at that time?