

SENATOR BOHLKE: No, I don't, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, what we're going to wind up with this afternoon is an argument about who is going to be inconvenienced most, the grocers or the bankers. The card carriers and card pushers are not interested in these women. The grocers are not interested in these women. I look at their votes. There are special interest groups that they're interested in and they want them to hustle some money off the welfare program. I thought I had made up my mind on this issue in terms of what I felt. If somebody can go into a store with cash, and Senator Beutler and I were just talking about it, that stigma that is attached to having the coupons is taken away. But after what you all did in rejecting Senator Dierks's amendment is to tell the woman who has another child, and that will happen, you're not going to get any assistance, so you put the cash in her hands, and this baby, who will get no assistance, needs Pampers, needs powder, needs baby shampoo, baby oil, maybe she will want to buy formula rather than try to breast feed the child because her milk may not be where it should be because her nutrition level is not that good. So this baby that has come into the world is going to have to be supported, so money that would have gone for food will go for other things, thanks to you all. You're creating impossible situations and now we're not talking about the ability or inability of a woman to manage her money, we're saying that we want somebody to do a great amount of something with very little or next to nothing that which we don't even do. If we could find some way to have the lobbyists who feed the senators put all that money that they pour into the senators' gullets into food banks to help women on ADC, that would go a long way in lifting some of these problems because when I consider the quantity that is consumed by some of my colleagues, I'm surprised that every cornfield, every wheat field, every soybean field hasn't been stripped to the ground as would happen if we had a flock of locusts coming through this state. I mean, I see people come in here as thin as a rail but by the time they leave here you can hardly trundle them on a rail. I'm talking about a train track now. So when those who fare sumptuously every day and grow, talk about giving these women this tiny little bit and they ought to manage seems very cynical to me. But I know people don't look at their own situation and say, I'm getting benefits by being a member of the Legislature that other people don't get. If some of the senators on this floor had to make it like other people situated as they are, they couldn't make it