

without the benefits they get by going to dinners and going to all these functions and affairs, taking family members and putting food in their pocket, loading up with these little shot bottles and all these other things that senators do. Those are benefits that they get, and then they say these women are going squander \$71 so don't give it to them...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...when a baby is in the world. I'm not sure about this issue, but I will tell you what, when I make a decision it won't be because I find that giving cash inconveniences grocers, that won't be the basis for my decision. I would not agree to go to the cards because I want to help these bankers and these companies that are going to hustle money from the cards. My interest is going to be consistent and straight down the line. I'm concerned about these women. I'm concerned about their children, which, based on the votes, is more than I can say for some of my colleagues.

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

SENATOR FISHER: Mr. President and members, I rise in opposition to Senator Janssen's amendment. I think that this is welfare reform, this is what we're talking about this session and I think this is one way we have to change. We have to do things that make behavioral change and one way to make behavioral change is learn how to spend your money, how to take care of it, how to monitor it. And without that, it's just too easy. I think food stamps give a false illusion that's out there. These people have to. I know that we heard about Alabama. I've read about San Diego. They went to the cash out. In addition to being much more cost effective, they found out that after a period of time 90 percent of the money was spent for food. So I think that's...that's what we have to do, design for a good welfare program. It's not to keep them on, not to make it a permanent fixture but to teach them how to go back to the real world, maintain their balances, maintain their funding, get a job and live. And I think this is one step in the right direction. You know, if, after a while, they get their money, I know the first week or month or the first time you get that big cash you're going to probably squander it, but suddenly the lights are going to come on and I think the lights are going to come on when they also realize that in two years they can no