

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I have to touch a bit more on what Senator Bernard-Stevens and I have talked about. I know people get antsy because they say there are other bills here. Well, look at what is delaying us. This bill was brought to us. It's making a radical change in the welfare system. There are important items that have not been discussed. There were attempts to cease debate and not enough votes could be obtained because people wanted to continue discussing, so that should make it clear there was no filibuster. But sometimes when you have the votes the inclination is to say, I'm going to show you I can put it in your face, and we're going to run this bill through whether it's in good shape or not. And I'll have it behind my name that I got welfare reform. I'm still concerned about the system. And if it means to maintain the integrity of the system I have to bring it to a halt, I might not be able to halt it for the whole system on one bill, but I'll bring it close enough so some of you all will be coming to me saying, what can we do to get out of this log-jam? And I'd like to interrupt Sister Witek over there for a minute, if I may. I mean Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Yes, Father Chambers. (Laugh.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right. Senator Witek, when we were discussing a proposal, a long time ago, on this bill and I was going to try to raise the payments to equal the standard of need, you raised some questions about the cost. Do you remember that?

SENATOR WITEK: I did and I have my light on.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you remember that I said I didn't have those figures but I thought your concerns were legitimate?

SENATOR WITEK: I do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you remember me then withdrawing that amendment?

SENATOR WITEK: Amazing as it was, I do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. And the only reason I'm doing that is to indicate that it's a serious amendment with me and the issue is a very important one. And if I wanted to just delay, I could