

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...I would...do you want me to close now?

SPEAKER WITHEM: There are lights on, Senator Pirsch. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, anybody who thinks that we are taking something away from someone that shouldn't...shouldn't have or doesn't need it needs to understand that when this bill was in committee and Senator Wesely had another bill in committee, the discussion came down to what...what we could afford as to what we could do. Senator Wesely wanted to expand. Senator Pirsch wanted to cut back. And when they got into committee, what happened was Senator Pirsch said, okay, she would go ahead and expand slightly from, I think it was from 133 to 150 percent. Senator Wesely wanted to go to 185, and, Senator Pirsch can correct me if I am wrong, and then the bill came to the floor with that understanding; that there would be more women who would have access to prenatal care, but that they would not...that they would keep the cash payment out, that they could continue not to have the cash payment to the women who are pregnant. So more women had access to the prenatal care, but they didn't have the cash money. Then the bill came to the floor and Senator Pedersen's amendment was adopted, and that gave them back the cash money for the last trimester. Senator Pirsch is not trying to take away money from these people. You guys wanted them to have it, they have got it in the last trimester, or a majority of people wanted them to have it. All she is saying is that if you are going to give them the money in their last trimester, then you need to shrink that pool of women who are eligible down again, if you want to try to control at all the cost in these programs. Here you are trying to fool the people of Nebraska into thinking you are actually doing welfare reform on this floor, which, if any of them were here listening, they'd know that that is not the case, although when you read in the paper, you can still think it is. But you are trying to make them think that you are actually doing welfare reform when you're turning around and expanding welfare, and I have an interesting article to put out on that, on something similar that President Clinton had said on his welfare reform, and how much more it would cost us, but that eventually we would be saving money. So you are trying to think that we are doing welfare reform, and the whole idea is to have