

April 21, 1995

LB 658

CLERK: Withdraw. Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Pirsch. Senator, I have AM1331 in front of me.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: 1331.

CLERK: 1331, it is on page 1457, Senator.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay. Could I temporarily pass over that to the next one?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, it is withdrawn and refiled in the way we will treat it. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Pirsch now has AM1332.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members of the body, of course, I understand the opposition to reducing on the last amendment, but I have another proposal that I hope you will listen to and consider seriously. It's printed in the Journal on 1457 and would leave 658 the way it is right now with the last trimester cash and also with the 150 percent of poverty that we will pay prenatal and postnatal Medicaid assistance to. But it would add that the term "dependent child" shall include the first unborn child of the pregnant woman, but only during the last three months of pregnancy. In other words, what we are saying is that if, indeed, this is the first child of the mother, that maybe those cash payments are allowable; that if they are preparing for their first child, as we have heard on the floor, maybe they have to buy diapers, maybe they have to buy a bed, but only if this is the first unborn child of the pregnant woman. We have talked a lot about welfare reform this session, welfare reform being that kind of contract that individuals make to become independent, indeed, to acquire that kind of education, to acquire that kind of job skill that will allow that person to become independent, get a good job and move off of welfare. We have already said in welfare reform that if, indeed, you're on welfare and you become pregnant, and this, of course, is if you have children already, that we're not going to give you cash for that child born within ten months after you are on welfare. And I supported that, in fact, many of you supported that because you felt that to be irresponsible, to be irresponsible and be on welfare and then to have another child, well, that is certainly your choice, but please do not ask