

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If the action on this bill proceeds in the direction it seems to be proceeding, what is it that you ultimately propose to do?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Two things. One, it will certainly give you more time to plan on some of the other issues that you want, but the second thing, I would hope that the choice would be between no growth and 12 million dollar savings or...or no bill and zero savings, somewhere in the middle so that there would be some growth, some transition for what we're trying to do to control the costs.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now if I were saying what you said, I think it sounds like you said you're prepared to pull out all stops to do what you can to stop this bill altogether if it goes in a way that conflicts with your principles.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I tried to say that more diplomatic than what you would have done. That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that's why I don't know if everybody got the picture. Well, I want to let you know, Senator Bernard-Stevens, when a senator expresses himself in the way that you did then another senator, which it is her right to do, stands up and pooh-poohs the way you say you feel about a matter and she's going to say how everybody feels and she's totally wrong, that could be a provocation. And I will tell you this. This is not the only bill that's going to take a long time and I feel like what Senator Withem said, I've stayed out of this discussion, but I have very strong feelings when I can see people deal with programs involving children the way this one is being dealt with. There seems to be a kind of cavalierness about the whole thing. And there are bills, I've told you, the crime bill, I'm going to the mat on it; welfare, I'm going to mat on it, and, Senator Bernard-Stevens, I don't apologize to these people for that. They bring these bad bills here. They offer these amendments based on how they feel and they're not going to back up an inch. You don't have to apologize because you're going to use the rules or whatever is at your disposal to fight for what you think is right. I admire him for it and it is going to give me some time to think, but I don't really need that additional time. I'll find mine. I'll take mine. And I'll find a way to be cordial with you all after that because