

because you're trying to make people over and turn them into something. This bill is one which some people supporting it now would not have brought in earlier times. But politics has a way of changing people, modifying their standards, changing their points of view and all of a sudden they see things as not being as bad as they really are. This bill is a hoax, in my opinion, because it promises things which are internally contradicted by provisions that we're putting into the bill. The area of child care apparently is not too significant in the minds of many members of the Legislature. I think it is very significant and I have seen instances, and I'm sure you all have read about them, where women have had their children taken from them because they placed them in unsafe circumstances. When a situation arises where the woman is placed on the horns of a dilemma, or as they say between... I say Scylla, some say "schilla", and Charybdis, where you have to pass between these two harmful forces and try to make it successfully, if you veer toward one that one will get you, if you veer away from that one, you come close to the other one and that one gets you. That's what we often do with poor people, we say, get all of this training, go out there and get these jobs and we know that they're going to be low-paying jobs because that's what your kind of people are to do in society, that's your role, you take these low-paying, dead-end jobs. But to make it possible for you to do this work we're going to provide child care and your children are going to have to be placed in the care of people who are reliable and who can be expected to look out for the welfare of those children. If you negligently place those children in an environment where they will be harmed, then you're going to be held accountable, you'll either have your children taken from you, or you'll be punished by the criminal law or both. And that's what is presented and people on this floor pat themselves on the back talking about how they are doing such a great thing to help the poor. I don't see it that way.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And as Senator Hall pointed out, which I had forgotten, there cannot be an amendment offered to this that is before us now because it, itself, is an amendment and you can't have an amendment to an amendment, obviously. So I'm not enthused or thrilled about what is being offered. Unlike some people, I don't see it breaking the bank or tampering with the market. Some people here, words that might apply in the realm