

that clarifies it. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator LaVon Crosby, are the letters "LKC" yours? She said they certainly are. Senator LaVon Crosby and I have to stop associating with each other to the extent that we do, because she handed out this article that I intended to read from and I was holding it back. And now she has...she has trumped me. But anyway.... She said the people probably won't read it, so go ahead and read it at this point. It's by W. Earl Dyer, D-y-e-r. And it's a point of view, I would guess it's from the Star, but the date is not on there. I wish people would date these articles, I always do. On the other side is an article with the date of April 8th, 1995. But anyway, the headline, "Welfare Opponents Perpetuate the Big Lie". Here's what the article says, over and over again we see politicians (mostly Republicans but including some Democrats) saying that we have "a welfare system everyone knows has failed". Everyone? Do the children whose food, housing and clothing comes from welfare regard the program as a failure? Do the parents who are helped to care for their children consider the program a failure? Do those who work with the program consider it a failure? Every program ought to be judged by whether it meets its own objectives, the objective of aid to families with dependent children is to provide food, clothing and housing to children who would not otherwise have these necessities. The AFDC program does not meet that objective completely (we're to...and I...this...the word he uses is niggardly, n-i-g-g-a-r-d-l-y, for that), that means very, very stingy. When the transcribers get to that word I want to be sure that they spell it correctly and it is not without fraud (no program, public or private is without fraud). AFDC does not solve unemployment or family breakdown or the problem of teenage sex, it doesn't solve low wages or lack of health insurance or the problems of people whose mental capabilities do not allow them to make the system work for their own benefit. It doesn't solve the multiple problems of the big city ghettos, it does not solve the problem of dependency. But to say that "everyone knows" the welfare program is a failure brings those who say it very close to the statements of a once popular now discredited senator who claimed there were 28 or 37 or 54 card-carrying Communists in the State Department. To repeat over and over again but without evidence that the welfare