

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...money. We should not blame government programs for not solving problems they were not designed to solve. And most of all we shouldn't let the big lie technique work, that something is said over and over again does not make it a fact. I wanted to read that into the record, even if nobody here paid attention. And also there are people observing us who may pick up on what this man was saying. I do think the welfare program has been successful to a marked degree and it's better to have some food than no food at all.

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

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. And Senator Dierks who told us how much this would cost, and believe me, in this welfare bill we are not saving money, indeed this welfare bill is going to cost us. But what we are doing is sending the message, and the cap on pregnancy or eliminating the cap on becoming pregnant while you're on welfare does not send a good message. And I sent out this article, "The End of the Baby Bonus", by Penelope LaMoy, in The Governing, in April 1995, talking about what's happening in New Jersey. And particularly quoting Wayne Bryant (phonetic), who is a New Jersey senator, a black senator, assemblyman, excuse me, oh, he was an assemblyman and now a state senator, who was the original proposer of freezing these payments to mothers. And his argument, and he still feels this way then as now, and I quote, Bryant (phonetic) thought otherwise. Welfare mothers, he argued, ought to have to make the same hard decisions on child birth and other issues of life that middle class people do. "We have a society built on penalties, you don't do a good job, you lose your job, he says. We have to inculcate that into the culture of welfare." But that's really what we have, and I called it the mindset. He calls it the culture of welfare, that's what we are trying to change. And, Senator Chambers, young wives and widows shouldn't have to be caught under this cap because they shouldn't be pregnant ten months after they sign this contract. And indeed in New Jersey the raw data shows in the first year the cap was applied there was a drop of 13 percent in the number of babies born to all women on welfare, both single and married, who were not pregnant when the program went into effect. And again it's not the question of money, although our welfare resources have risen dramatically through the years as this kind of culture of welfare has increased. And it's a question of fairness, the question of those middle class working people who have to make