

February 7, 1996 LB 1141

SENATOR COORDSEN: You've heard the motion. We'll have a roll call on the issue of calling the question in reverse order has been requested. Mr. Clerk, please proceed in calling the roll. All the members unexcused are present.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 736-737 of the Legislative Journal.) 29 ayes, 3 nays on the motion to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Debate does cease. I would remind you that the house is under call. Senator Witek, to close on your amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: I cannot believe, although maybe because it is lunch hour, that you would like to cease debate on this bill. I hope it's just on this amendment. Although I don't have any other amendments filed on the bill, I do have a motion to adjourn filed as you vote on this amendment, but I should hope that the Legislature realizes what they are doing in these areas, the huge bureaucracy that you are creating, the money that is flowing into them, taxpayers' money that is flowing into them without any... anyone asking for any accountability in any of these areas. It's of great concern to me, and it's a growing concern to me that this is occurring in the state of Nebraska, because we do have money problems in the state of Nebraska regardless of what people want to believe out there. Our economy is slowing down tremendously. Revenue will not keep coming in at the rate it is coming in, and we cannot continue to spend it, every dime of it, like you've done for the last four or five years, and whether a program is worthy or not is not the issue here. It is where is this money going? Not a one of you on this floor, including Senator Bernard-Stevens, whose bill this is, knows how many kids you are serving, who is getting this money, who we are contracting with, whether any of it is doing any good whatsoever. We have an additional \$10 million to a violent juvenile facility. We've got a Governor who is, in addition to all of this, proposing boot camps and probably has the votes on this floor to get it through in an election year. I'm... I'm very concerned and I would hope that you would at least push through an amendment like this that only asks for some accountability, some... a few questions answered by those individuals who are spending half a million dol... or half a billion dollars, is what they are spending here. And