

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I was listening to Senator Beutler discuss his amendment while I was downstairs in my office working to try to help preserve an existing victim rights pro...victims' rights program, but what Senator Beutler offered was so reasonable that I had to come up here to support it. He is right, as right as rain, when he points out that when time comes to really assist the poor, things are done that will dilute that effort. In Omaha and other cities of that size and greater, statistics will be gathered to show how many impoverished people there are in order to qualify for certain amounts of money from the federal government in the form of block grants. When that money comes into those cities, it's diverted generally into the downtown area and will benefit those people who are upper middle class or upper class, if you want to call it that based on their income and their hou...their standard of living. The poor are always used as the bait, and then when the assistance comes, there emerges the switch. In retailing, bait and switch means that you lure the suckers in by offering one thing, and when they get there what you offered is not available but you tell them something else is. I don't think Senator Wesely could, by any stretch of the imagination, be considered a bait and switch artist when it comes to these kind of programs. He is bringing a bill, which is designed to address a very serious problem, that of affordable housing. Shelter is something which every ethical, religious, and moral persuasion advocates for every human being. In this society, whether it's a small hamlet in Nebraska, or a metropolis like New York, there are people who cannot afford to purchase decent habitable dwellings. What Senator Beutler's amendment will do is to say that if we really intend our effort to address those who have the most serious need of housing, this is the direction we ought to go. In addition to it being correct that the sick needs the physician and not those who are well, those who are sickest have the greatest need of the physician. So if not every person with a disease can be ministered to, priorities have to be set, and those with the greatest need are those who must be given the highest priority. Senator Beutler's amendment does establish a priority and it is one with which I can agree. So at this point, unless I can hear something very compelling, I will support Senator Beutler's amendment as he offered it, and not support Senator Wesely's amendment to it. It's one thing to say that the poor, that the very low income person shall be given first priority for assistance, well, that's not really saying