

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 19, 1999 LB 637

here to do that because we don't want these poor women and children on welfare and, therefore, we need to help collect their child support. That makes sense, but what does not make sense is then to say if you do not do this the way that we believe you should do it, notwithstanding the fact that you actually do it pretty well right now, if you don't do this what we are going to do is devastate poor women and children in your state. We are going to harm them irrevocably by taking away money that provides them with the ability to eat, provides them with the ability to have warm clothing, provides them with the ability to have...not a decent way of life but a subsistence way of life. This is akin to saying we think domestic violence is a problem and if you don't address domestic violence exactly the way we think it should be addressed in some other state that may not have the same problems as you, we're going to take all your money away that you use to give assistance to victims of domestic violence. This is illogical and it verges on immoral. You do not help poor women and children by threatening to harm them, and that is what the federal government is doing right now and they're trying to do it, remember, not with some magic pot of money out there, but the very money that Nebraska sends into the federal government in the first place. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kiel. Senator Schmitt.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Mr. President, members, I have a question for Senator Bruning, and I know he's smiling because he knows what the question is going to be.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bruning, would you yield?

SENATOR BRUNING: Yes.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Senator Bruning, when you were talking here awhile ago, I heard you talk about how much money we have saved since the automation and computers and all this has come about. How much have we actually saved the state, the county, and the taxpayers?

SENATOR BRUNING: You should have been a lawyer, Senator.

SENATOR SCHMITT: (Laugh)