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care of their own children, and you want to say, why are you doing that when the government will do that for you? Now, it's not the Health and Human Services Committee to be "incompassionate" and to not help those who need help. The Welfare-to-Work program was a transitional program to get people jobs, to get people on the work force so that they can be self-sufficient. That is...is certainly the goal of the committee, I think, in this area. I just want to tell you that in 1997 we had 9,600 children at an expense of \$24 million; 1998 we had 10,321 children at a cost of \$29 million; in 1999 we have 13,928...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...children at a cost of \$43,989,000 and we're expected to get up in the \$55 million range. If this body decides that they want to spend \$55 million a year for child care they certainly...and you want to do that and you want to tax the citizens for that, we have that prerogative. But one thing I think we need to do, we must do, and that's that all of the people that work for the state government need to follow the statutes of the state of Nebraska and not make administrative changes that make a great difference to the budget of this state. And I certainly will be one, if this administration does that sort of thing, to bring it to your attention immediately. Yes, this went on longer than it should have gone. I don't argue that. I'm prepared to work on this bill to make it better.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Jensen. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Crosby, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I, for the record, I want to be sure that everyone understands I do...I do support the Beutler amendment and I went back and asked him again. I wanted to be sure I understood why he was changing "may" to "shall" and I do understand that and I am supporting it. But I'm not supporting the committee amendments unless some things are taken out because I don't like the idea of the assets and I don't like the idea of tightening up on the child care subsidy in general. This bill started out as a bill to take up the slack when we find out, and Senator Jensen has given you the