

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

April 6, 2000

LB 925

opportunity for existing providers to expand what they do already. And I would suggest to you that any way that we can expand the amount of childcare that's out there, encourage businesses to provide it one way or another is a win-win situation for working parents. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kiel. Senator Wickersham, there are no further lights. Did you wish to close on your amendment, AM3333?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes, Mr. President. Senator Kiel's remarks have brought me up short and reminded me what this bill is about. This really is a bill that is aid to dependent corporations, aid to dependent corporations. There wasn't a single thing that Senator Kiel said that they couldn't do now, not a thing. Not a thing that Senator Kiel said couldn't be done now with substantial benefits to the employees and full deductibility of the cost to the employers, not a thing. That could all be done. So the only reason that we're being asked to do this is because employers somehow find that too costly to do without our assistance. It's just too costly for them to do what's right for their employees and for their employees' families. What a shame. What a shame. Corporate profits? Plenty of corporate profits. Watch the stock market. What is happening to employees' wages? Are they keeping pace with the stock market? Where is all that money going? And if they won't provide the benefit to their employees, if they won't do that, why won't they pay their employees so the employees can purchase their own benefit? Why do we have to pay them to do that? Why do we have to enact an aid to dependent corporations bill so that employers will do what they should do for their employees? And, in fact, as I noted last time we spoke about this bill, why should we enact a bill for aid to dependent corporations when some of them are recognizing that it is good for their employees? It's good for them. It's good for the company. It's good for the company to be good to their employees. It's good for them to be good to the families of their employees. Why do we have to encourage them to do what is good? Cannot they see good for themselves? Cannot they do good for the sake of doing good? Now it is true that I'm asking you to narrow the scope of the aid that we would give to these dependent corporations. But I don't think it's inappropriate to narrow