

individuals. So don't get mired down in all of these little things that I'm sure to Senator Chambers don't seem like little things, but you're going to be drawn off the track, you're going to be drawn off the subject that you so, so much need to understand. And let's just once again, let's not forget that these are people with identities, people with faces, people that are our neighbors, people that are our friends and our family members and all of us want to do what is right for these people. And the system as it is is not going to help these people.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Ashford wishes to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 22 fourth graders here from Brownell Talbot School in Omaha. Their sponsors are Esther Bender and Michelle Marvin who happens to be related to Senator Bohlke. Would you all stand and be recognized, please. Thank you. Senator Janssen, do you wish to speak to the Chambers amendment?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Madam Chairman, members, I'd like to speak a little bit on the Schimek amendment on keeping the kids in school. It is my understanding that anyone can be penalized, fined or penalized if they don't keep their kids from being truant, so not only the people on welfare, but the general public. And after all, I believe that if people on welfare keep their children in school it is to their benefit because of the lunch program as Senator Rasmussen had talked about. Usually, or in some cases anyway, the breakfast is given to these people and if their income is low enough they don't pay anything for that lunch and the same with the dinner program at noon. Why I just really don't see much difference there because of the fact that the people who send their kids to school, if they don't send them to school, they're going to be penalized the same as the way it is in this bill. I mean \$100 or \$200 to anyone else sending their children to school, if that child is truant, means something, too. That's about all I have to say on the Schimek amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Chambers, Senator Chambers, I guess I just need to correct one thing. You talked about everybody in this body apparently doesn't know what it's like to be poor. I grew up in probably a poorer family as anybody in this body and I know what