

as you can't define everything in a number of sections of the bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If a caseworker said ten days, that's not prohibited either, is it?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, it may or may not be, depending upon...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Under the language of the statute. Thank you, Senator Beutler. Members of the Legislature, they can't answer questions. One caseworker can say three days, another one can say six, another can say eight, another say ten. Why don't they draft it in such a way, if they must do it, to allow the schools to make that determination, that the child has missed enough days? When have you had a welfare bill determine what constitutes appropriate attendance at school? Who sets how many days of school a school board has to have? Does the Department of Social Services set that calendar for all of the other children in this state, Senator Vrtiska, Senator Bohlke, Senator Wesely, Senator Beutler, Senator Rasmussen, Senator Byars? No, it doesn't. It's an educational determination and it's in the statute. When we talk about reducing the amount of assistance, can it be reduced by 10 percent under the statute? Yes. Twenty percent? Yes. Eighty percent? Yes. Are there any guidelines whatsoever? No. Why? Because we're dealing with poor people. If you talk about interest rates, which are going to impact on people with money, does the statute set a maximum limit on what can be charged as interest before it's usury? Yes. Why is it that everything goes out the window and there can be all this sanctimonious talk about we're trying to help the poor but the same standard is not used across the board and even those who get handouts from the government through the farm programs are not handled in this fashion. The corporations that get the handouts under 775 are not handled in this fashion. Corporations that get tax credits under various types of programs, we're going to have one talking about ethanol plants.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You don't talk about their values. You don't talk about their children going to school. You said every time you had the opportunity to put that in the statutes, you would do it, and I simply don't believe you. I think it's totally untrue, because there are other bills where this Legislature grants largess provided by tax money and you all don't even