

kind of communication between the caseworker, the parents, and the school, then it should be more than just a hope or a wish, it should be made as forceful as the language above which would punish the parents if the child does not meet some caseworker's view of regular attendance, and the parent having put forth what the caseworker feels are reasonable efforts to obtain regular attendance. I have touched on, with Senator Rasmussen, she came to me, something that might be achieved and I'm not sure, but if it is, then I would agree to that. But while they're discussing that, I want to talk about this whole thing again. The reason it's being offered is because Bob Armstrong told them to put it in. Let me ask a question first to be sure. Senator Wesely, could you tell me why this provision was put in that we're discussing?

SENATOR WESELY: In the various task force meetings that we had, a number of ideas on welfare reform came up. One of these was "learnfare" which had been adopted in Wisconsin, and Mr. Armstrong, the Chairman, did recommend it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are you aware that the Omaha Housing Authority has lost a number of lawsuits, the most recent of which, I think, was that they practiced racial discrimination in some of their housing programs? Were you aware of that?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I'm aware of a number of those lawsuits.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Were you aware that they had lost that one?

SENATOR WESELY: I'm aware that, yes, they are under...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that's a good recommendation for following this kind of policy?

SENATOR WESELY: I don't know if that is a good recommendation.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, there are a lot of things that Mr. Armstrong does with which I agree and I think are positive. But again when you give people too much control over others' lives they get carried away and begin to believe that they own those people, and any idea they get they can impose it. Anything they hear someplace else that they think is great, they can impose it. They wanted, in the Omaha Housing Authority, to set up arbitrary conditions by which people could be evicted. There will be additional lawsuits.