

April 11, 1994 LB 1224

Senators Hall, Hartnett, Janssen, Wickersham and Withem. Call-in votes are authorized.

CLERK: Senator Cudaback voting yes. Senator Landis voting yes. Senator Kristensen voting yes. Senator Moore voting yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR DIERKS: The motion carried. Debate is ceased. Senator Crosby, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. I will close on my amendment. One more thing I would like to remind you of is that this provision only applies when a person is working and has reached the time limit, but still there's a needy family there. Over 7,000 families and 13,000 children in Nebraska would face this problem the way the current bill reads. Also, when you talk about the jobs that they can get, most of the minimum wage jobs don't include benefits, such as medical insurance, that act as a safety net to keep people from falling further into poverty when they have a crisis. So I think probably you think about the cost but, as I pointed out earlier, this bill, as it stands, is going to cost a lot of money, 68 new caseworkers. You're going to have to have...for the "learnfare," you're going to have to have a whole new set of people to monitor. And when you talk...we're talking about helping women and children here, not creating a whole new bureaucracy to set up jobs for the people in the social services, and that's what I think we're looking at. We're going to look at...you will not believe what comes back if you pass this bill what comes back next year, the amount of money that DSS will come in for. So I wish again that you would read this article that I handed out this morning having to do with the book that Professor Wallace Peterson wrote just recently, the Silent Depression. It points out the whole idea and brings to life for me the idea and what is a reality that so many jobs have disappeared. And Silent Depression, I think, is such an apt name for it, because we have a lot of people getting ADC and different kinds of welfare benefits these days that 20 years ago wouldn't have even thought. They wouldn't have even considered or they wouldn't have been...wouldn't have had to because the economy was different. And we see here in a land of plenty a group of people...and I did find it offensive this morning when people start talking about those people as if they

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