

May 23, 1995

LB 99, 140, 289, 316, 371, 393, 395, 438
438A, 455, 459, 473, 505, 530, 592, 805
856

LB 805, LB 856, LB 140, LB 438, LB 438A, LB 459, LB 473, LB 393
and LB 395. See page 2455 of the Legislative Journal.)

Senator Cudaback, amendment to LB 371; Senator Day, LB 592.
Enrollment and Review reports LB 99, LB 505 and LB 530 as
correctly engrossed. Natural Resources Committee reports LB 289
to General File with amendments attached; LB 316, General File
with amendments attached. (See pages 2455-61 of the Legislative
Journal.)

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hall. Senator
Hall waives off. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the
body, Senator Beutler, I guess that you do make a good argument
and there is a lot of resentment, I understand that,
particularly among young families, many of them who are
struggling to make ends meet. But that doesn't change the
reality that sometimes people get pregnant and whether they're
that poor family who are struggling to make ends meet or whether
that...they're that poor family on welfare, they still have to
find a way to take care of those children. And, you know, what
we...the payments that we make for AFDC are so low, to begin
with. If we...if we had a decent standard that was more like
what other states have, maybe this wouldn't be so objectionable.
But our rate is already so low that we're going to, I think,
penalize people more. I have to remind the body we're talking
about \$55,000 in state funds. That's what the fiscal office
estimates that this would cost. We...we're not talking about
hoards of women on welfare who are pregnant, we're talking about
a few, relatively speaking, and most of the women who are on
welfare are younger women who are of child-bearing age. I think
the punishment doesn't fit the crime.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Fisher, you
are recognized.

SENATOR FISHER: Mr. President, members, let's not discuss so
much from what the recipients get and their role, let's look for
a change at those people that fund this. You know, these are
pretty tough times. This is not exactly a plush time in our
economy. I think we're looking at our children, my children not
living at the level that I did and having those opportunities.
They're raising their family. They're doing their savings. Why
should we burden them with this? And you might say, yes, it's a