

April 3, 1973

PRESIDENT: Senator Fred Carstens, you passed before. Do you wish to be recognized at this time? Senator Carstens.

SENATOR F. CARSTENS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have passed two or three times this morning, but I finally decided that I might have the concluding speech here and I am not one to pass up an opportunity like that because there are some things that have been brought up here that have inspired me to do this. Now, one of the things that Senator Carpenter has so accurately pinpointed is, if we are going to vote to pass 235, we should also have the courage to vote to raise the funds locally on a state level to pay the bill, pay the increase, because if we are going to wait for welfare reform bills on the national level and if we are going to wait for the so-called federal grants and federal handouts to pay for all the things that we need to spend, we are going to wait forever. There is no chance in the immediate future that there will be any welfare reform on the national level and, if you care to look into the reasons why, I suggest you talk to Senator Marvel. I loaned him a book here a few days ago that goes into the history of the legislation known as the "family assistance plan" which was proposed by the la...by the present administration and which was defeated in Congress last year, and you will find out that welfare reform is almost impossible to obtain, not because there is no need...not because there isn't need for welfare reform but because the people who are living off of welfare, not the recipients, not the children, not the blind, the crippled, and the aged, and the helpless, and so on, but the huge army and the huge bureaucracy that hangs on the welfare systems in the form of highly paid administrative jobs, counselors, and sociologists, and workers of every form and description are going to lobby and make it almost impossible to achieve a meaningful welfare reform because they have the balance of power in the lobbying effort. So, let's forget about that for the time being. I am going to vote for 235. I am going to vote for it because I think it is time we recognize some facts of life. I have people in my district who are not on welfare, who work, who live in properties that I...and I am acquainted with them. I see them. I know their problems and they are relatively poor people, and I know only last Saturday when we were discussing when one of these ladies who was doing some cleaning work in my office, was telling me about the terrible complaints going on and the wide publicity that is received because meat prices are high when the fact that the cost of living in those other essentials of life that have gone up so much is always concealed, overlooked, or not mentioned at all, and they are just as essential and just as influential in the lives of lower income people as is the high price of meat. Meat is only one item in the total thing that is hurting these people. For example, I have little grand children. Occasionally, I buy them clothing and I know that a pair of little canvas shoes, for example, just little canvas low cut shoes which should sell for maybe \$1.50 or \$2.00 at the most, cost from \$6.00 to \$8.00 a pair, and this is not an exaggeration, and these things wear out in an active, healthy child in a matter of every few months, at the least. Now this is one item and go on to the clothing, or go on into prepared cheeses which have, for example, doubled in price. Canned goods, fruit, all manner of things which have gone up proportionately much faster and much higher than meat, but we never hear about this. But all these items are a part of the budget of a family. But if we are not going to, if we are not willing to levy the taxes whatever place they need to be levied to pay the increase in the cost of this bill, then they shouldn't vote for it because the federal...it is easy...it is so easy as we have been accustomed to and trained like a well-nursed person who doesn't have to worry about where it is going to come from, that has it always handed to him, we have been trained to believe that anything that we need or want, whether it is