

January 24, 1980

LB 35

CLERK: (Read roll call vote found on pages 404-405 of the Legislative Journal.) 22 ayes, 23 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Now we are back to...are there any other amendments?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Dworak now moves to amend and his amendments are found on page 329 of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: What page?

CLERK: 329.

PRESIDENT: 329, the Dworak amendment. The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, since we are establishing a study on standard of need, the intent of this amendment then is to also introduce a concept that there should be gainful employment connected with these kind of payments. I think we are all concerned, certainly the taxpayers are concerned, about the expanding rolls of welfare, about the people that are receiving benefits and about the fact that these people are making no effort to get off of welfare in many instances and provide for themselves to add to the productivity of this nation. The amendment is to say that nobody shall receive these benefits unless they have made efforts to gain willful employment. Now I think this fulfills a proper social goal and social objective. I think a lot of people in this body, and I certainly put myself in that category, really do not have an objection to helping those people who legitimately need the help. I don't think welfare should be degrading. I don't think welfare should force persons or people into slave labor but I sincerely believe that a lot of people are using the system. If we make the payments so positive and so strong that these people are so comfortable doing nothing then why should they work? Why should they put forth an effort? Where is the incentive? There is no incentive. So the intent of this amendment is to tie in with the welfare payments, that provision that every effort should be made for that person to be gainfully employed. I think that people across this country would have less hesitancy, they would have less concerns about the welfare system if they were assured that people weren't using it to avoid gainful employment. Now this is a tough situation to achieve and I grant that and I recognize that but since we are going into a study, since we are going to spend some money, I think this issue ought to be looked at also in that study and I would like this pro-

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