

red on the kill motion for this reason. Up until this morning I would have voted to kill this bill and I feel strongly that it is time we have a look at welfare. I talked to Senator Johnson. I said, "Senator Johnson, unless you would be amenable to considering an amendment to LB 35 at this point I will not be able to support it all the way through." If there is any single one thing that the people in Nebraska are concerned about and that is the dollar that it is costing us today in support of welfare. Now it has been stated by a number of people that we are not against, and neither am I, against helping people that have a need. I will go all the way but I feel the time has come when we need to do all that we can to rebuild incentive and purpose in life of people that maybe have not been given any help to be productive and as a result we have a cost of welfare that is burdensome to the State of Nebraska. I told Senator Johnson that I will do all that I can by myself or helping someone else to draft an amendment to LB 35 that will take this study, if it goes, into a wider range of study and see what we can do and maybe we can even save some money. I think we can. Sometimes I like to ask the question not only what does this cost but what does it cost if we don't do it. The time has come in my opinion that we need to have a look at welfare and I think we can do it and, Senator Johnson, I believe we can broaden the scope of the intent of your bill where we can include that and if we can't, I can't support the bill all the way through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I echo much of what Senator Kremer has said. I did vote to kill the bill. I think the bill is at this time and perhaps the timing on the bill is not right but I want to remind some people here that there have been bills introduced in this Legislature over the years and I introduced most of them, that would have required the poor to work. It would have required the unemployed to work. It would have required the convicts to work to earn a part of the necessary funds to support themselves. Almost without exception those bills did not get very much support. I think that Senator Johnson has attempted to perhaps resolve some issues here that need to be resolved and I think if he has agreed to try to perhaps bottomline some of these expenses, maybe we can get a handle on some of these costs. I visited with many people who have been active in the Welfare Department. They are as concerned as we are about the unnecessary expense that goes along with operating that department. I think one of the principal concerns that I