

I just wanted to make a couple of comments about this measure and my comments are these. Back in 1972 this body passed the no fault divorce law and one of the negative aspects of the no fault divorce law is that it ended up allowing a lot of families that had been dissolved for all intents and purposes in everything except a divorce to then be dissolved by divorce and it left a lot of middle-aged women truly holding the financial bag not knowing which way to turn, not knowing how to start a new career, not knowing exactly what they were going to do financially and it left them with the problem of putting the life together again. So what this body did two years ago is it adopted a Displaced Homemakers Act as an experiment and the function of that act simply was to take some of the true harshness out of the no fault divorce law by providing at least places where women could go for help in putting their lives back together. Now I have looked at the experimental program in Omaha which is conducted through our Y.W.C.A. and I know some of the people that are involved in the staff and I also know some of the people who have been through the program and they speak extremely highly of it. They know it to be an effective offering and they know it to be a respectable, decent counter to the most negative aspects of the no fault divorce law. So it is my opinion that we should continue with this experiment by way of 663. As you may recall, the original displaced homemaker bill had a two-year sunset provision and this is just an instance of the Appropriations Committee taking a look at the program, seeing it working well and deciding that the sun ought not to set at this time and 663 allows the sun to continue to shine. I would support the measure.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh, then Senator Kelly, then Senator Cope, then Senator Landis and then Senator Kremer. Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Valentine's Day is a very appropriate day to be discussing 663. When the public hearing was held the Appropriations Committee unanimously of those who were present, advanced this bill to the legislative floor to General File. We have had success stories because of the workings with the Displaced Homemaker Act. This is a mechanism to bring together the knowledge so that services currently in place in a community can be mobilized to help the individuals who through no choice of their own are suddenly thrust into a different position. Death can be devastating enough whenever it comes but when it leaves a mother with small children and no insurance who has not worked for a number of years, it helps to have some place to turn where someone not only understands but can give some practical and specific advice to help the situation. The Displaced Homemaker Act has functioned very successfully in the time it has been alive. It has helped to solve problems for citizens