

calls come to me from all over the state. Some of the worst problems that I have trouble dealing with because they're complex I will refer to the Department of Welfare and they're beginning to wonder why sometimes people will come to me instead of going directly to them. There are occasions when people have to deal with case workers and other functionaries. They run into rudeness, unkindness to such an extent that they will not even try to obtain any more that which is available and they will come to me to be a go-between for them. So there are problems in addition to the small dollar amount that is available. I wish the day would come when the state would set a level of existence and not allow any of its citizen to fall below that level. Jesus said, the poor you'll always have with you, but we don't have to ignore the poor. We don't have to withhold that little that the state is willing to put out there. I had wanted to push for a higher amount, but listening to the sage counsel of Senator Johnson, I'm going to follow the leadership that he is providing and hope that at least this modest amount will be approved by the Legislature. I support his amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Pirsch, you are next, but before you begin allow me to introduce to the Legislature 21 fourth graders in the north balcony from Williams Elementary School in Columbus, Senator Schmit's and Senator Rupp's district and also six teachers. Welcome to the Legislature. We're glad to have you down. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, it is very difficult not to support a bill like this for the poor and the children. Senator Johnson always waxes eloquent and especially so as he speaks of the powerless who have no money and whose children are suffering. Senator Johnson, would you yield to a question? Do you know the average number of children per recipient of the ADC money?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I don't have that statistic with me, but my recollection is that it is less than two children per recipient, like 1.8, but I don't know...I can't tell you precisely.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Would you then entertain an amendment that would limit the number to a recipient and two children?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I have never felt that that was a just