

that child out of wedlock I suppose, because they have had that child out of wedlock and that parent is unemployed. It could well be that the child is impoverished because his or her mother and father is sick. It could well be that the child is impoverished because his or her mother is disabled. It doesn't make any difference to you and to me the reason for the impoverishment. It is an irrelevancy because what is relevant in today's society is the fact that a child is impoverished. It's a condition that you and I know exists. And you and I have got an obligation as part of the social contract to take our tax dollars and to make certain that that child is able to grow up healthy, wholesome, well educated, straight, productive and we do it. We've been doing it since 1935 through the ADC program. Before then we did it through the county farm program. Before then we did it through parish relief, but we've been doing it since 1935 through the ADC program. Now this amendment and this bill is the most straightforward amendment and bill you can ask for. We don't earmark cigarette taxes. We don't earmark marriage licenses. We don't earmark anything. We just simply say, appropriate X number of dollars out of general funds to take care of a needy population and you know how much it is going to cost and you know who is going to be served and that's that. Now ADC benefits in the State of Nebraska are at the lowest level in real dollars since 1953. What Senators Goodrich, Chambers and I are doing is we're simply increasing the level of benefits. We are increasing them so they will probably get to about the 1973 level. We are not taking them to the 1985 level because we simply do not have the political strength to do that job. But I know every last one of you in this body wants in the end to do right by our children and the reason I know that is because I have come to understand over the last 46 years the essential character of the Nebraska people. We may be conservative, we may be traditional, but more than anything else, we are humane, we are humane. We make certain that the most helpless, that the weakest, that the least defensive members of our society are taken care of and are taken care of as best we can do. This little amendment goes a step in the right direction. It does not go all the way. Put the amendment on the bill, we'll discuss the bill, we'll deal with the funding, we'll slowly continue our commitment to the social contract.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, the motion is the adoption of the Johnson amendment to the bill. All those in favor vote aye,