

effect stripping one of the most essential parts of the bill, and I would hope that the body would look with disfavor upon Senator Johnson's effort to strike Section 6. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Is there anyone else to speak on the Johnson amendment? I guess you may close, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, this is a very serious amendment. I hope I receive the 25 votes necessary for the amendment. This is an amendment which says that at this time we are not able to afford...to afford a program which will give money to the Department of Social Services so that it in turn can make grants to volunteer organizations, that is, nonprofit organizations so that they in turn can have programs designed to deal with the issue of child abuse. You have received over the last several weeks a variety of literature from the various good organizations in Omaha and Lincoln and the rest of Nebraska that talk about existing programs that currently are being funded with volunteer dollars, programs that are designed to inform and alert children about physical abuse, about incest, et cetera. Well, this bill is designed in some respects to make those privately funded programs publicly funded. Now you and I are in a hard crunch financially. In fact the Appropriations Committee meets with the Revenue Committee later this afternoon to talk about what we are going to do with the budget. The budget is no longer a pleasant topic of conversation. It is a painful topic of conversation. And what I am saying by this amendment is that while a grant in aid program to private organizations for child abuse programs is a noble and worthy goal, there are other places that we need to put our money more along the very same line, and if we do not put our money in those other places, then we should not put our money here and I already mentioned one other place which nobody wants me to talk about very much and that is the ADC family. That is the mother with two children or the mother with one child or the father with one child or two children, who cares what the mix is, that are down on luck, that are stone broke, that need to have the helping hand of the state so that they don't fall prey to those human crimes of abuse and incest, depression, mental illness, and the other ravages that occur when people are behind the financial eight ball for one reason or another, and every last one of you in here can identify with that, because everyone of you know people in