

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: (No response.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is a very difficult issue for Senator Wesely and myself. Both of us have been very strong proponents of the ADC unborn program. However, just because we have been strong proponents of the ADC unborn program does not mean that we are unwilling to make changes to that program which continue the program in all of its vitality but simply reduce certain payment levels. Now let me explain to you how the ADC unborn program works. Today under our standards one parent and one child receive a total of \$280 per month ADC benefits. If that child happens to live in a household where there are no parents of that child, so we in effect have a foster parent, that household will receive a grant of \$210 a month. The \$210 a month figure basically represents our base line threshold ADC payment figure.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, may I interrupt you, please. (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, please let's listen to the speakers a little. This is important business we are handling and I would really appreciate your cooperation. I am sure those that are speaking would also. So we would really appreciate it if you would hold it down. Thank you, Senator Vard.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: What the Appropriations Committee amendment did or does is says that we will take a pregnant person and simply pay the pregnant person at that base level for one person, which is \$210 per month. That's it. We will not pay at the rate for two people which is \$280 a month. We will pay at the base level of \$210 a month. So as soon as a pregnancy is determined, a payment begins at \$210 a month. And it goes on to say that in the sixth month of pregnancy the amount goes up to \$280 a month. Now I don't think that is too unreasonable. I will say one thing, however, it was very difficult for Senator Wesely and I to accede to even this change, but we said we would make the concession provided, however, that this amendment was done through the high risk pregnancy program because that targets