

dollars to needy pregnant women. And the Appropriations Committee, however, chose to reject that particular tie between the high risk pregnancy program and the ADC change. So I offered that tie just a few minutes ago and the Speaker rejected it. And I simply decided not to challenge the Chair. My personal feeling is that this amendment to LB 31 is acceptable only if there is a tie to the high risk pregnancy program and that is the only way that I can see that I personally and I think Senator Wesely concurs, can ultimately support what is being done in the ADC unborn program. So with that in mind, unless I can assure myself that there will be a true tie between LB 201 and LB 31, I'm going to vote against the committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hall and then Senator Beutler.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. Speaker, members, I think after listening to the debate over the last few days and the introduction of this bill today, even though I've only been down here a short time, I think that the 1985 session will go down as the year of the assault on the cripples. So far we have cut support or have ignored children, the mentally retarded, the indigent alcoholic, the mentally disturbed and now I think we're trying to go for a clean sweep and get those that are the most unable to help themselves, those that are unborn. I think that the cost effectiveness of this bill is at best questionable. All the statistics that we have and that have been presented to us show that in the long run by supporting this program at the level that it is we are going to save money because we are going to have healthy babies that aren't going to cost us additional funds after their births. They are going to be not in the hospital, but at home and they're not going to cost us the exorbitant hospital bills that we have seen from those who don't have the nourishment and the care that they need in those prenatal stages that are so important that they have, their mothers have good nourishment. I think that it's a serious moral question. We talked yesterday about how important it is for us to have a good roads system. We said, I think, to some respect that a good highway system is the very fabric that weaves a community together and I think it's a real shame if we make a cut like this to this program that we are in an essence, and to the extent that we are making this cut, that we are looking at a community that I guess says our roads are more important to us than our children. I think that it's much more important to give those children the opportunity, since