

off of welfare and they do want to work. It is a commendable use of funds. It is an existing transition program and it assists the homemakers in being incorporated back in the work force. Through the use of contributing tax funds they again become taxpaying and working women. The Mental Health Board at home very much supports this too. They, if this program were closed, it would just contribute to their workload because they get these battered mothers and women that are desperate and they simply do not know who to turn to, and by being able to refer them to the Displaced Homemakers Program, they are again helped and the mental health center is relieved of that patient and can give services to others. As the Mental Health Board said, they think that we are being very pennywise and pound foolish to take this program out, cut it out of the ivory towers or, as they are saying, the highways where millions and millions are spent and not out of the front line working people. This is counseling for these women, job training, and it gets them off of public assistance, and I do hope that you address this and give it consideration. Thanks.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh. May we have order in the Chamber please. (Gavel.) Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President. I support this amendment. I support this amendment because it is a way to save tax dollars. In fiscal year '83-84, 75 percent of the participants found jobs and another 10 percent went into training. That year with legislative dollars for only one center, \$52,000 were paid back in Nebraska taxes on an expenditure of \$70,000 for the program. Oh, you say, there is a difference. There certainly is. By the second year, that group had paid back the balance of the cost plus an excess of \$34,000, and after that, they were totally tax producing. Look at your options. Save a few dollars immediately and add to the total cost for the state down the road, total cost this year and next year and the following years after that. Displaced Homemaker Centers enable women to become tax producing rather than tax consuming. If only 7 percent of the participants went on welfare, it would cost more than the total appropriation. Are you hearing that strong statistic? If only 7 percent of the persons receiving services went on welfare, it would cost more than the total cost of the program itself. Eighty-five percent of women will be widowed or divorced. The Displaced Homemakers Centers provides essential services to both