

his or her family who may have been stripped of everything else. With all of our talk in schools and churches of people not putting their life into material things, we know that people do feel in this society that their life consists in the abundance of what they possess, clothing, cars, houses, combines with wing spreads like 747s, trying to keep up with farmer Jones, and so forth. But the fact that people make blunders and fall into dire straits, even through what you might call stupidity, may not in itself be enough justification for us as a Legislature to say, we will let them wallow in their misery as the punishment for their foolishness. If we adopt that attitude here, maybe those people are right who say that age is God's punishment for those who have a certain lifestyle. Lung cancer is God's punishment for those who smoke, and if such is the case, we should stop soliciting money and donating money to any of these funds that are designed to deal with these human problems. I see this not strictly as a case of the economy from the standpoint of the lender but in human terms, and I base that on what is to become of these people to be thrown out. My final comment in my opening. Down through the years I have caught a lot of flak from people who are out there now condemning me and the people that I represent in saying we were getting what we deserve, that we are thieves, we don't want to work, our children are raggedy because we want them raggedy, and so forth. I could just sit back now and say even the Bible said you sow the wind and you reap the whirlwind, so you are getting what you deserve. You planted bitter seeds and now you are reaping a bitter crop. And maybe I would be better off if I could do that because I wouldn't be standing up here arguing here or arguing like I did in the committee or at other times. But I do believe that a point has to be reached where we get outside of ourselves and forget some of the individual grievances we may have against those people who need the help, and that is what I am trying to do to the best of my ability. And it is not difficult for me to relate to people who are about to have the wolf not only on their door but in their house to consume their children, and in this case the wolf is that of poverty, ignorance and disease because, as sure as we stand here, all of these things will follow, like night follows day, if we strip people of everything, give them no hope and no way to maintain any shred of human decency.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, I had your light on for the bill, did you wish to talk to this amendment? Okay, Senator Vickers, then Senator DeCamp.