

one of our colleagues falls under Alzheimer's, suddenly we become aware of it and we are sensitized to it and may take some action, thanks to what Senator Carsten led us to do due to a tragedy in his own family. But it shouldn't have to come to one of those we know or work with before we can understand how tragic it is for anybody that falls under these problems. Why are we going to take \$2,000? It is like saying that the guy is so poor, all he has got is a quarter, if you take fifteen cents from him it doesn't matter because what could he get with a quarter anyway. And that is the philosophy of saying, take from the poor the little that they have. It is like saying these people over here are wonderful because they can take a penny whistle and make music with it. That is wonderful, but if somebody has music in his or her soul, why should they have only a penny whistle to express it? Give them a piano, a violin, a horn. We are talking now, I think, about human dignity, the human dignity that can be denied some of the citizens of this state, the lack of care that we have for people. When I have been talking to students these last few days, I have told them to listen well to what politicians say when they come to their classes. Then check the way they vote on the issues that they discuss in the class, and you will see often that the vote contradicts the words that come out of their mouth. And I point out to them that if people are not in a position to do anything to bring about a change, you have to take their word for it that they would do better if they were in a position to do it. But when there are people, such as legislators, who can do better and choose not to, they are to be condemned. And I know when time comes to run for office, there will be senators crisscrossing their district telling how much they have done for the people, and I wonder if when they tell what cuts they have made, they say, yeah, we cut mental retardation, you know, that is those people that we don't care that much about. We cut the alcohol aid. We cut money for the libraries. We cut money to the hearing impaired. I was out there working for you. They won't talk about those things and they won't be proud of them. So if that what you do you can take no pride in, why should you do it? If that which you do you cannot speak from the house tops and boast about, why should you do it? If you have to give an apology for it, it should not be done, and this is such a piddling amount. We can buy a clear conscience on at least this issue for \$2,000. The 30 pieces of silver were worth more than that if we'd convert it, I hope. Senator Hall, I dare not say "pray" that their might be compassion as a grain of mustard seed in the hearts of the legislators, and that grain of compassion...