

SENATOR SMITH: All right, Senator Moore, first of all the discussion regarding Medicaid waiver, can you tell me a little bit about the status of the waiver, whether it is being utilized as far as disabled and aging programs and services or not?

SENATOR MOORE: I honestly cannot answer that question as far as disabled people, obviously there's a great deal of activity in the mental retardation side of things but I...hitting me cold with that, I can't. Senator Wesely may answer that question better than I can, but I'm going to answer I don't know.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Wesely shrugs, too. I guess for the record I would like to clarify, I think the importance of the fact that we should be taking advantage of the waiver. My understanding is that it has to be renewed on a continuing basis and the idea of the waiver would be, of course, that you would be able to utilize more of those federal dollars by transferring them from, in many cases, institutionalized kinds of service to less costly in-home kinds of care where that is appropriate and I would want to make sure that I would stress that where that is appropriate because in many cases institutionalized care is what is appropriate. That's a concern that I have and I just would, for the record, like to find out if, in fact, that is being, they are being utilized to the extent that they could be utilized. And maybe that question could be answered by someone giving me some information later on then.

SENATOR MOORE: Senator Smith, if I might, I will try and give you a better, obviously, not only a better answer, an answer to that one later on.

SENATOR SMITH: All right, thank you. My second question is on page 18 and I'm now in the section dealing with the ADC/Public Assistance program and when I'm reading this and I say, I remind myself of a few things here where it talks about the committee recommendation includes significant increases in ADC and other public assistance programs, a total of 8.9 million and 16.2 million in the next year following. And then you go on to talk about the percentage of increase and that sort of thing that you're projecting. Client growth is expected to be 5 percent per year so that's the first question in my mind because given the fact that I can remember a few years back the big...the reason that was given for the increases in the programs were attributed to at that time because of the faltering rural economy and that many of the new people that