

September 30, 1992 LB 3

to twelve kids and they're going to see relief with the state continuing to pay for their education. Now I'm not sure we can deal with all those problems at this point. But I ask you to please understand, we aren't just dealing with dollars and cents, we're dealing with children, we're dealing with their lives. And let's please try to be compassionate in the way that we deal with them. And I hope, and I certainly am going to support Senator Withem's amendment. I think he's absolutely on the right track. And I think the words that he spoke when he said the deeper he got into this situation the more confused and more problems were opened up as he got into it. And I hope we all will take that amendment very seriously because I think...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BYARS: ...it's needed. So I'm not sure how I'm going to vote but please keep these in mind when you're making up your mind.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, one of the implications that is always left with the public when we speak about this sort of an issue is that when we make the change the problem just goes away, and I think that as we learned several days ago discussing the payments to the unwed mothers, the problem is still there, the problem frequently becomes compounded. I have a question for Senator Wesely if he's around. I guess, I understand that there is at this present time a shortage of foster parents and maybe Senator Moore can tell me what impact this is going to have upon the availability of foster parents if, in fact, we shift the cost of the education to the local school district, or, in some other instance, if we do not take care of it ourself. Can you tell me?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: None.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay, will you elaborate? That's a very simple answer and I need to have just a wee bit more information.

SENATOR MOORE: What was your question?