

L.B. 185
 Governor with \$1,500,000.00 appropriation, found that money being recommended by the Governor to be used to increase the payment to nursing homes. The money on a bill which the Governor vetoed of mine was subsequently used by the Governor to increase the payments to nursing homes. The vast bulk of the welfare dollar goes for medical assistance payments. Now, each year there are overpayments in this program and it's been estimated by welfare officials that if all the overpayments were caught in the medical assistance end of the program, that would lead to a savings of up to \$5,000,000.00. Now, that \$5,000,000.00 would not be a new or increased appropriation, it would be from the money that is already appropriated for the welfare program. You could save \$5,000,000.00. That money could be better spent to help children who are in need and with that, I'll move that L.B. 185 be advanced to general file as amended.

CLERK: Motion on the desk, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Read the motion.

CLERK: Motion read.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President and Members of the body. I do not make this motion lightly nor do I make this motion for any other reason than to establish the fact that there are times when you've got to stand up and say no. For example, in this bill, we do not control what we call standard of needs. This bill says that we will pay 100% of what the Department of Welfare determines to be the standard of need. We do not control what the Welfare Department says is a standard of needs. If we pass this bill, for example, and they say it takes \$307.00 per month to feed a family of, a mother and three children, for example, that's the figure they're using. The day after this bill goes into effect they could change the standard of needs and increase it and we can't do a thing about it so consequently, the fiscal impact of this bill as you will notice in your fiscal impact note, is \$15,000,000.00. That could increase substantially if the Department of Welfare decided to increase the standard of needs. The reason I'm making this motion, however, is not up to that point, even the important factor. The factor is that we have another bill that was introduced by Senator Schmit which is L.B. 235 which says that they shall be provided 80% of the standard of need. We still are holding that bill in committee to put some amendments on it that will make it in proper form as far as the Federal regulations are concerned and then we will advance that bill out of committee and that will be a much more palatable bill for us to deal with. We have another amendment that if this bill should start to advance, we'd need to put on, either one of these bills and frankly, I would suggest we put all the amendments on Senator Schmit's bill, L.B. 235 but it would be an amendment to re-establish our control over the standard of needs so that the Welfare Department, if they increased the standard of needs, would have to come back to the Legislature and get our approval. With that, I will say that I would encourage you to indefinitely postpone this bill and we'll take care of the matter in L.B. 235 when we get it up here.

SPEAKER: We have before us the motion to indefinitely postpone L.B. 185. The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes, then Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, Senator Chambers, I'd like to ask you a question.

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers, will you yield to a question?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Certainly.