

March 22, 1973

Burwell High School, and their instructor is Mr. Lester Piper, Mr. Bob Peterson is the sponsor, they are of course from Senator Rasmussen's district. We're delighted to have you the 16 seniors from Burwell High School, we're delighted to have you here today as visitors to the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature. We sometimes observe that this sure beats going to school. Senator Goodrich we are ready to take up your motion, now. Senator Goodrich as a courtesy to Senator Chambers I think we should extend the privilege to him to once again restate basically what his bill is here.

SENATOR GOODRICH: That's just what I was going to ask for and I'd also like for Senator Schmit to be able to present his bill and then we will talk about them.

PRESIDENT: Likewise. Senator Chambers why don't you give us a little outline again basically of what the bill embodies here, to refresh the bodies mind.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the legislature, it's difficult for me to give a brief outline to this bill, but I'm going to do it as briefly as I can and discuss the body of the bill itself, when we take up his motion to kill. This is a bill which acknowledges the fact that in the state of Nebraska, families with dependent children who need assistance fall into a special category, that the state in the same way helps other groups of people who need assistance should help these children also. Every other category of welfare, the aged, blind, disabled, receive one hundred percent funding of the standard of need as determined by the state department of public welfare. What the standard of need is, is the compellation of what's considered the essentials to life, such as food, clothing, shelter and things of that nature. Now in 1967, there was an amendment to the social security act under which Federal Funding occurs for ADC programs. This directed that the states upgrade this standard of need which means let the standard of need reflect the increases in the cost of living. The standard of need is one thing, the amount actually is another. What this bill would deal with is the amount actually paid. The standard of need merely states what it would take to reach a minimum level of decency and this minimum level is I assure you absolutely minimum. In Nebraska, only sixty two percent of this minimum is currently being met. This bill LB 185, would declare that whatever the standard of need is, as determined by the state department of welfare, the state of Nebraska would not play the shell games, of saying this is the amount that is needed and would not pay it. The State of Nebraska, would become honest and sign on the dotted line. If it was determined for a family of four, three hundred and seven dollars a month is needed as a absolute minimum, then the state would pay three hundred and seven dollars a month to that family, and the rationale for this bill is that children deserve help in the same way that others do. Recently in the legislature, we have beefed up the state patrol to fight the drug problem, without total regard to the cost involved because we did it on the principle that there is a serious drug problem and once we decided the legislature should do something, we wanted to grant the tools necessary. The same way with this bill, we are trying to determine the principle of whether or not the state is concerned about the welfare and uplift of children at least to the extent that it is concerned about rehabilitating adult drug addicts and convicted people. That basically is what the bill is, that basically what it does, Senator Goodrich is going to try to kill this bill, he is going to try to kill Senator Schmit's bill, and he is using it as a reelection issue, he has to run for reelection next year, and we all understand this, because we must do it. But there are certain tactics that some of us will not use, there is certain things which we feel are out of bounds to use as