

January 13, 1976

CLERK: We do the work, but the problem is if we get Xeroxed copies and you start Xeroxing Xerox copies, you lose quality very, very rapidly. You have to have good copy to get good copy off of it.

SENATOR DICKINSON: The question is, what can we do about it?

CLERK: One thing, if the Committee's would all file better quality copies, our Xeroxing of those material would improve.

SENATOR DICKINSON: That is a good job of passing the buck, Mr. Clerk. I accept that.

CLERK: Motion on the desk. I move to amend the Committee amendment from \$5000 to \$2000. Signed Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: I don't have very much to say about it, members of the body, except that as Senator Kennedy, the Chairman of the Committee, has indicated that if we go to the \$5000 we would be unique in being far above other states and I was just trying to amend it down to a reasonable figure.

PRESIDENT: You have heard the motion to amend the amendment. Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I guess I would disagree with Senator Dickinson as to whether or not this is a reasonable figure. Last time we discussed this bill, I am not sure that I adequately explained what the issue is. What this deals with is people that are put in the Nebraska Home for Children and Youth and also put under foster care programs. The \$5000 figure is the amount of personal assets that that child will be able to retain but the way it is now is that the state can collect money out of the personal assets of that child down to \$750 to pay for expenses. The result of this is that when the child leaves the institution or leaves the care of the state, whatever assets they have have been dwindled down to only \$750. It was the feeling of the Committee that \$750 or the figure of \$1500, that the Welfare Department suggested, is too small to provide a chance for a person to get established in society. Now we are talking about people who do not have a family who is willing to take responsibility for them or someone whose parents are dead. Therefore, there is no other income that they can rely on other than their own personal assets and the money from the Welfare Department. If we want to keep people on the welfare roles, all we have to do is take away all their assets while they are in state institutions and turn them out as paupers. It was the Committee's feeling that \$5000, the amount of money, would be able to let a person when they leave the care of the state get established. Now we are talking about expenses like going to school. We are talking about expenses like paying for an apartment. The University of Nebraska, for financial aid, estimates that one year in school costs at least \$2600. These people will have no other source of income other than what they might be able to get from welfare or what is their own personal assets. I don't think the state should