

SENATOR F. LEWIS: ...and there will be no holding the line in three or four years because the encumbrance is here. The obligation is made. So, Senator Goodrich, I rise to oppose your motion. I ask you to carry forward with the bill as you originally presented it. If there is a legitimate need, let's do it now. If you can prove that need I certainly will support that bill, but I'll support it at the level of \$15 million, so we know what we're appropriating, so we'll understand what we've encumbered. I rise to oppose the Goodrich amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members of the body, I think it might not hurt to explain a little bit how the welfare system works in our counties. I'm not sure I'm for or against this bill at the present time. The way it really works the State of Nebraska and the federal government pretty well control how the welfare system is administered in our counties. The county board has some say, but very little. The salaries are paid from the state, even in our court houses the space that is used there is paid for by the state. The salary scale is pretty well controlled by the state. We have a step system which we have to follow as county officials. So we really don't have a whole lot to say about it. The only thing good that county boards can do is look over the shoulder of the welfare director and see that everything goes right within the county. I would certainly hate to see this changed. I think it's one of the best systems we have to handle our welfare problems. In my own county, some eight years or so ago, our cost per month was about \$2,000 to the county. Today it is about \$5,000. This is getting close to \$1 per person per month in the county. I'm not saying this is all wrong, I'm just telling you what it really is. As far as the states around us, we know that, as stated by Senator Goodrich, there are I believe four now that have any impact from county money at all, or very little. I don't know whether this is good or bad. You can make your own decision. But what Senator Lewis said about the cost to the state and the amount of money that is involved, and how 518 worked into the picture, I see it in an entirely different light than he does. LB 518, that was passed last year, actually took money away from the counties and made it tougher for them to meet these obligations. So unless we get more sales income tax into the picture the real estate is going to pick up the welfare in our counties. It is just that simple. I don't believe that is the way it was intended. I don't believe that was the way it should be. So I would support this to the extent that I believe that the state should start picking up more of the costs than they do. Welfare is a national problem. It's a state problem, it's a general problem. It isn't any one particular area's problem. We have very little to say about it. The federal government comes out and tells us exactly what we have to do. If they don't, the state does. I think they ought to pay for the program. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Goodrich amendment. I represent ten counties in the state, probably more than anyone else in numbers. These people are saying to me that they don't have any control over the welfare situations in their counties.