

we are probably heading in the right direction now. I have had some strong misgivings about LB 35, about its cost and about which way we are going. If you will give me the time I would like to explain a little bit about what I found out last year when we were working with the bill that was to relieve the counties of some of the medical vendor payments and that is that Nebraska's welfare program is considerable more elaborate and contains a lot more programs than nearly any other state and certainly those around us. What I would like to see even though, goodness sake, we had too many studies this last year I think. Most of us were very concerned about the number we had. I really believe the welfare program being it is one of the highest expense items we have on our budget should undergo a complete study and I think maybe you are going in the right direction with this LB 35 deal to start that way, I am not sure. But I would like to see a complete study made of all of our programs that we have. I have talked to welfare directors in my own area and most of them are not opposed to this. They would like to have a little more direction as to what they can do and what they can't do. There are certain programs of course that are mandated by the Federal Government and we have to, I guess, adopt those and use them and I am sure they are the most costly ones. So we are not going to save a lot of money but I would certainly like to see us get into a study to see if we need all the programs we have in the Welfare Department. I think we should start by perhaps next year with a bill or an amendment that would only accept those programs that are mandated and then work from there. So whether we pass LB 35 or not I think it is put down the road a ways now. I am not as concerned about it as I was when it would be put into effect soon but I would hope that we would not just go with this part of it, that we would go with a complete study of our complete welfare program. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb. Oh, you do not wish to speak on the amendments? All right, Senator Lamb. The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: I presume that a question on the A bill would be in line now to know whether I could support what Senator Vard Johnson has got going and the A bill says expense of about \$5,000,000. Under no circumstances will I support \$5,000,000 this year, Vard, but I am sure that you have some answer to that and I would like your answer and then I have another question after you get through with that that I want to ask.