

and a half million to the State of Nebraska to the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare to be distributed to needy folk to meet their energy needs. The Nebraska Department of Public Welfare developed a plan for the distribution of that money to needy people and never once held a public hearing on the distribution formula. There has been absolutely no public input or public comment concerning who is to get the energy money and who is not to get the energy money. I personally think that is wrong. I have run that down. I have discussed that with Senator Kelly, the chairman of the Administrative Rules and Regulations Committee and it may be in due course we will look into that particular problem. LB 35 does not affect that though.

SENATOR KEYES: It does not affect it, then are you going to go up and talk to Senator Knight and Senator Proud, the two former senators that are now at the head of the welfare of this state? Do you think we would do any good by going up and talking to those two gentlemen?

SENATOR JOHNSON: It never hurts to talk. I am always glad to talk. I would be glad to do that.

SENATOR KEYES: I think we ought to go up and visit with them just a few minutes to let them know where we stand on welfare and especially on the funds that come in to take care of the needs of the people who are not on welfare, the grand generation and the people who are unemployed for some reason whatsoever and unable to meet their fuel bill. I will quit before I get started.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on the Johnson amendment? If not, Senator Johnson, you may close.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body, my closing is going to be very simple. This amendment is one that would, as I said at the outset, change some dates to conform to the fact that we are now one year later than I was when I wrote...when we started with this bill, to eliminate one surplus section which is not necessary any longer because of the committee amendments and in addition to make it absolutely clear that whatever standards of need are developed under this bill will not be put into place automatically but instead, will await ultimate legislative action and that is the essential purpose of the amendments. I have worked on these for some time to make sure the language is correct and does what I think it says it does and I would certainly ask your support.