

January 24, 1980

LB 35

SENATOR JOHNSON: I intend to look at the Medicaid program, the energy program, the technical assistance program, the foster care program and right on down the line to see whether or not we taxpayers are getting our money's worth and that is the bottom line. We taxpayers do want to do right by needy and poor people but we want to do right in a way that we can be assured that we are getting our money's worth for the tax bucks that we put into it and it is my intention to do the best I can over the next three years to see to it that that be the case. I would certainly oppose Senator Haberman's kill motion.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, I would have a question of Senator Cullan.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan, will you respond?

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Senator Cullan, as chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee, it is my understanding that you would have all of the authority that you need to take LB 35 just as it is and incorporate it in the activities of your committee. Is that correct or incorrect?

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator Kelly, I assume that if an appropriation were made to the Health and Welfare Committee to study an issue that it could be studied subject to a resolution by the Legislature, yes.

SENATOR KELLY: Further, isn't it normal that when a committee has something of this nature that they desire to be done that they approach the Executive Board and request funds to proceed with the activity of determining information for the committee?

SENATOR CULLAN: That has been the practice in the past, yes.

SENATOR KELLY: Thank you very much, Senator Cullan. Members of the Legislature, I ask those questions of Senator Cullan to point out that we have a procedure that we have used very well in the Legislature whereas a committee puts together whatever it is they need to know, whether it is public power, whether it is revenue, the idea of what a taxpayer may be, whatever our problem is and then that committee approaches our Executive Board which sets the legislative budget and puts the case there so that in an orderly fashion the Executive Board and the committees are in control of what it is