

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, I will take up the invitation. Senator Kahle asks how we hold the line on the welfare budgets. I frankly think we'd have a difficult time holding a line on the welfare budgets. The Welfare Department comes to the Appropriations Committee with their projection for their needs for the following fiscal year and the Appropriations Committee accepts or modifies that particular projection and then of course the Legislature ultimately adopts the appropriations bill. Now it may well be that their projection was off somewhat and if it was off somewhat, then the Welfare Department will come back with a deficiency appropriation bill which we will eventually adopt and apparently that has been the case in this Legislature for like the last three or four sessions. We have adopted deficiency appropriations. Now we didn't need to adopt deficiency appropriations. We could have just given the Welfare Department more money at the outset. In fact, Senator Warner once told me that that used to be the practice. We just gave the Welfare Department more money at the outset so, in fact, it usually would run a surplus but we have become a little more cautious and we cut their budget very close and we know, we really know in our hearts that they are likely to come back with a deficiency appropriations bill.

SENATOR KAHLE: Thank you. That is exactly the point I want to make. That is the way it is worked. I just don't quite understand how the certificate of need is going to work into this. I think it is going to make the budget larger and with less control by the Legislature. That is what worries me.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Merz. Senator Merz calls for the question. Do I see five hands? I do. The question then is, shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. The question is, shall debate cease on the Haberman motion to indefinitely postpone LB 35. Senator Merz, do you want me to call... It is obvious people are not going to vote so I am...all right. Record the vote.

CLERK: 17 ayes, 16 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Debate continues. I assume it's your desire so we'll call on Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Ladies and gentlemen, I have very grave reservations about the true import of this bill. First of all, we are not asking someone to study the needs. We are spelling out those needs and we are implying in that same