

have been cleared up before but basically tell me in a few words, what is the overall purpose of LB 35? What is it you are really trying to do?

SENATOR JOHNSON: I am trying to have the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare ascertain for the benefit of us in this body and the citizens of the State of Nebraska how much money it takes to provide shelter which is safe, healthful, fit, habitable; utilities to provide heat to sixty-five degrees; basic telephone service; minimum clothing for health and decency; food necessary to meet minimum nutritional requirements and so on down the line. I want to know those basic need levels in dollar terms. I then want to know whether there are different groupings of persons in our state that have essentially different need levels, such as foster children might have different need levels than older adults, and once that knowledge comes forth, then you and I, Senator Marvel, will be in a position to act appropriately.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Now are you reading from regulations or are you reading from the law...you were reading from...?

SENATOR JOHNSON: I am reading from the bill itself.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is this...this is statutory you are talking about. You want to change the statutes.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Marvel, our statutes are absolutely silent concerning need based programs. This Legislature literally has never set any ground rules or guidelines for the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare in establishing need standards. We have permitted continence to bureaucracy to do whatever it wanted. Now I am trying to get in control.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We have addressed ourselves to standard of needs before and that is why I was curious. Now the purpose of the study...who is going to conduct this study? If we put up \$50,000 or \$100,000 who is going to conduct the study?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well the study is to be left in the hands of the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare. If they wanted they could use outside institutions such as the University of Nebraska School of Home Economics. That is what was done in Iowa, in fact, was the use of the Home Economics School for the University of Iowa.

SPEAKER MARVEL: But there is no specification in the bill or in any amendments as to who should do it?