

January 24, 1980

LB 35

SENATOR JOHNSON: No, we have no control over the personnel that are involved. I have basically delegated...

PRESIDENT: Half a minute.

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...the Department of Public Welfare.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer. All right. The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, there have been a few references here by Senator Kelly and Senator Murphy to previous studies and the comparison has been made to studies done of public power, to the study that we are talking about here. Senator Murphy made the comment that we spent a lot of money and we study a lot of things and then we didn't do anything but I respectfully submit to Senator Murphy and the members that it wasn't the fault of the study. It was because the members of this body didn't have the intestinal fortitude, plain old guts if you want to call it that, to do something with it after you got the results of that study. I have a lot of problems with LB 35. I will be honest about it. I think the aged, the blind, the disabled people of this state deserve all the help from us that they can get. The problem I have with it is that we have, if we increase the amount of need, we are going to increase the number of people that, at least in my opinion, perhaps don't deserve all the help they can get. I just wish we could somehow separate those two things and I think we can. We can because we are the ones that put in the statutes the number of dollars that A.D.C. parents, these types of people, get. If we have the intestinal fortitude, if we have the guts to keep those dollar figures down and then allow the aged, the blind and the disabled to get an increase, then I think that is what we should do and I certainly support this and I would like to ask Senator Johnson a question if I could.

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson, would you respond?

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Johnson, would you give me your promise that this is not an attempt by you to increase the amount of welfare payments to the type of person, the young A.D.C. mother that probably is perfectly capable of working but desires not to and would rather get more welfare payments and as a result of this bill would probably get that if we didn't have the intestinal fortitude to keep the dollars down?