

Who are they to look to for changes? Well, what LB 39 does is it continues us down the road of getting the county out of welfare funding and once the county is out of welfare funding, then the county genuinely ought to be out of welfare administration so that we only have a state administered and supervised welfare program, and there we know where the buck stops. The buck will stop with the state executive branch. If we have problems with the welfare administration, the problem lies with the state administrative branch, and we can deal with that. If we have problems with the welfare direction, then the buck stops with the state Legislature and it can be dealt with. But in terms of developing a good government concept, it is important, in my opinion, for us to discontinue the marbleizing of the cake, so to speak, where the chocolate and the vanilla just all mix together, but to begin to separate the chocolate from the vanilla so we know exactly what government is going to look like, and that means a state administered welfare system. LB 39 does not call for a state administered system, but once it begins to get the county off the spending in the area, particularly in the area which the county has absolutely no control, which is the Medicaid area, then it makes it easier for us to take on the responsibilities of a full state administered welfare program. It is much, much better government. My biggest fault with LB 39 in all honesty is it doesn't move fast enough. It knocks down the county Medicaid share two percent a year for the next three years until it reaches a plateau of ten percent share. It ought to knock it down all the way. It is improper government for us to impose a cost on a county when the county itself has absolutely no say-so no authority and no control over who gets and who does not get Medicaid and over the direction of the program. The only people with that kind of say-so and that kind of control is the state. I encourage you to support LB 39.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I hesitate to stand up and oppose legislation that everyone recognizes is, so far at least as being just and equitable. I do oppose it, however, for two very specific reasons, one, this two and a half million... approximately two and a half million dollar cost, 2.6, for additional A bills, frankly, is going to be, if it is done, at the expense of some other items. But more importantly, I think it would be an error to at this session pick up this amount of funds for the simple reason