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LB 522

was the state just does not have the financial resources to take it all over at once and so we phased it in and we can perhaps phase in a little slower the state take-over of the total responsibility and the administration but essentially I think that problem is not as serious as you may think it is.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, a question of Senator Wesely, please. Senator Wesely, the question is, the state will be in absolute control of the offices in the counties. In other words, they will appoint the director, the employees. It will be strictly a state function.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR COPE: Feeling that we can do a better job by the state doing it than the local county as it is now.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR COPE: Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, I, of course, have had my nib in this sort of legislation ever since I have been down here, mainly because I was involved in county government as you all know and have some concerns about the welfare program as we have it now in our state and in our counties. And, Senator Wesely is right. The counties have very little to say about the program but Nebraska for some strange reason, when the welfare program was introduced originally took it upon themselves, or were given the task by the federal government to pick up 20% of the medical vendors payment through the counties. I have always had concerns about this mainly because other states around us do not have this provision and in some of the other arguments and discussions we have had we have talked about the State of New York has a similar provision in their laws where the counties pick up part of the medical vendor payments and I found out since then that they are attempting right now to change theirs so that the counties will pay a lesser part at least over a period of years similar to what Senator Johnson is trying to do. As all of you know, LB 39 is sitting up there on, ready for Final Reading which would eliminate the medical vendor payments for three years at, going from 16 to 14 to 12 to 10 and as Senator Wesely also said, this bill would continue to go on down until there was no payment by the county. I am probably going to support this bill although I doubt that