May 4, 1981

LB 561

child out of wedlock or to have children and tell a husband to move out in order that this pittance could be obtained. I wish we would do away with all of the myths, all of the rumors and all of the misstatements about the tremendous amounts of fraud that are supposed to occur in these programs. As a matter of fact, Nebraska is one of the states with the lowest rate of fraud of any state in the union. The Budget Committee saw fit to cut a hundred something thousand dollars out of the budget which had been set aside to set up a snitch line so that anybody who thought their neighbor was getting something from Welfare that they ought not have, could call right to the head prosecutor and tell him but after the expenditure of over a hundred thousand dollars the amount recouped was I think a little more than eight thousand dollars. That much money could be frittered away and lost without any fraud being involved at all or even any negligence. So I hope you will consider this amendment and vote to add this modest amount to the budget. I told you the percentage increases, now let me tell you the actual dollar increase in general funds over what the committee has recommended which is already in the bill. It would be \$1,757,380. As with any program like this where you don't know with certainty how many people will be involved, you have to make an estimate. Based on experience and study of what has happened in the past, this is the best estimated amount that could be arrived at. So I hope you will vote to support this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I would rise to again explain the committee's recommendation and pose the additional amendment. There is a substantial increase in general fund appropriation from this year's, over the current year, for the '81-'82 budget. I think the general fund appropriation approach is a 25% increase in dollars but the prime reason for that is a substantial increase in the number of cases, from somewhere between a thousand twelve hundred estimated increase in the number of cases which you would expect when the economy is as tight as it might be. The recommendation that came from the Governor's office was at the \$280 plus \$65 as has been pointed out. The committee recommendation is the \$280 a month plus \$70 for each additional child. Again, the same argument. You are talking about a \$1,150,000 over and above what the committee has recommended to you. You have got about 2 million left on the green sheet from the previous amendment and I guess your vote will have to be to select where you want to utilize that additional funds if it is the consensus of the body to stay within the existing revenue and existing rates.