

and this is an obligation that we placed upon them along with the federal government, I think this is not unreasonable that we do provide them some assistance for this year until we have an opportunity to review the problems placed upon us because of the present administration's economic package. I ask for the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Question before the House is the adoption of the Koch amendment to LB 39. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. The motion is to return the bill.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting no.

SENATOR CLARK: Record the vote.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 9 nays, Mr. President on the motion to return the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: The bill is returned. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Question before the House is the adoption of the Koch amendment to LB 39. Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body I rise to oppose the Koch amendment. You know I sense there is a great desire here to take what you can get and run. I suppose that is a very natural thing in the political process and one that I seldom have a lot of qualms about. There have been times when I have taken what I can get, what little it might be and frequently it has been very little. But I think we have a major issue here and a principle that transcends just what we can get and that is who is to pay for the cost of Medicaid. The counties have no ability. No ability to effect the program. They have no ability to cut costs. They must pay whatever they are told to pay by the state. They sometimes argue about it in the case of Douglas County trying to litigate a little bit, trying to reduce those costs, but frankly those costs are very simple. They are just passed through. They ~~are~~ passed through to the tune of 16% of whatever the total bill is. Now frankly I don't think that our counties can long afford to do that. This bill, LB 39 is the closest thing to property tax relief that this body is going to see this year. I don't hold out much hope for the 20 million dollars in state aid. I fully believe and I'm sure that the Governor will