

May 29, 1981

LB 561

under a restriction. We have said you must live within certain limits, and it is easy to do that, if at the same time we say, well, you know, we will just shove that responsibility back on you. And in some counties it's not going to be much of a problem, as I have outlined. In others it can become a serious problem. I know that there are people here today who can, and including myself, who can go back home and have no fear of repercussion if we do not act favorably upon this motion. But far be it from me to be the person who is responsible if a child sometime in the next year is not well fed or well clothed because of the fact that we did not take the action that is necessary. I know there are going to be those who will say, this is irresponsible. Let me tell you, very frankly, as a father of a large family I know something of the cost of raising a family. I know something of the burdens that single parent families face. I know something of the facts of life relative to raising children. And I've said on this floor if it were as easy to raise children as it is to conceive them, there would be no need for this kind of legislation, but the facts are not true. We need that kind of assistance and as Senator Higgins put it so well some days ago, if we can vote money to feed livestock, we ought to be able to vote money to feed the children. I could argue against Senator Higgins and say, well, if we don't feed the livestock, we can't feed the children. But I can say that they can go hand in hand. We have done those things on this floor during the previous 89 days that were necessary for business. We have done some of those things that were necessary for agriculture. We have done some of those things that are necessary for industry under LB 3. We have done those things that we felt were right for education, and we are going to do some more I think if Senator Koch has a chance with his motion. But the facts are, and I think perhaps some people think we have done enough in this area, but the facts are that I do not believe so, and I do not fear the consequences of saying so. I have made some mistakes in this body and I am sure that you all agree with me on that, but I do not believe that I am making a mistake at this time and in this place and on this motion. I don't want to take a lot of time, but I feel deeply about the issue. I feel so deeply that I am willing to stand here today and offer this motion and I will offer a second motion, which is also a matter of record, which I will move to override the Governor's veto of the Mental Retardation Funds. I think the issues are similar. I do not say they are inseparable but I think they are similar. I believe that those issues are issues which you can