

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Higgins a question or two. First of all, Senator Higgins, I support this bill of yours with all my might which isn't probably too much but I've got a question or two. Where does the federal government and the state government enter into this? Medicaid is supported by federal government is it not? Part of it is and part of it isn't. Do we run smack dab into these rules and regulations or do you have that all taken care of?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, Senator Rumery, that is why we are making this an irrevocable trust. I have a letter from the Department of Welfare, the State Department of Welfare, assuring us that by making this an irrevocable trust we will not be in conflict with federal regulations.

SENATOR RUMERY: Great.

SENATOR HIGGINS: And that was another reason for introducing the bill.

SENATOR RUMERY: Thank you.

SENATOR HIGGINS: And making an irrevocable trust. Thank you, Senator.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The last light on, Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, perhaps another question of Senator Higgins. What is the limit that they can set up for this funeral?

SENATOR HIGGINS: The maximum would be three thousand dollars. I doubt if many of them would have that amount but just in case right now they've got fifteen hundred and it is drawing interest that would put them over the present limit.

SENATOR KAHLE: And if I understand right now, the trust that you are talking about would specifically state the undertaker or the mortician that would be doing the work when the time came. Is that correct?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, unless for example if they lived in Omaha when they made the trust and then later they moved to another part of the state to move in, say with their family and they wanted to be buried there. Then they could change morticians but first they would have to notify that mortician that they were changing the designated beneficiary and that is solely for the purpose that they can move from one place to another. The money would still be irrevocable. They could not draw it out at any time during their life.