

SENATOR KAHLE: Okay, let's use an example. Let's say I sign up with a...set up a trust with, for three thousand dollars and a mortician is picked and I don't know whether he has to sign the trust document or not and I live another twenty years, hopefully, and funeral expenses have doubled. Am I still going to get a three thousand dollar funeral?

SENATOR HIGGINS: You're going to get whatever, if you have three thousand dollars plus the interest, you will get whatever that will buy at that time. Presently it is at fifteen hundred. I raised it because recently I went through that funeral expense and I know that fifteen hundred won't hardly put you under, at least in Omaha.

SENATOR KAHLE: I'm certainly in favor of having a set aside of money that a person can set aside to bury them and it should be more than the fifteen hundred dollars I believe that we have now. I guess what I'm afraid of and we had some of this several years ago. We had a bill before us where morticians actually solicited and went out and sold their program to people and I'm sure some of that is still done but I would hope that our people, especially those in care homes that are not as alert as they could be and perhaps don't even have any family close by, would not get suckered into a deal that they might regret later. And this is what bothers me a bit about this whole thing and that is the reason I threw up some red flags a bit ago. I would hate to have a policy in our statutes whereby morticians could go out and solicit business and then not have a definite ending on it so that that would actually be the price of the funeral, and that after the thing was all over they couldn't bill the family or somebody else for the extra money. If they want to sign a statement that you get a funeral for so many dollars I guess that is alright but if it is an open ended thing, why all it does is give them, make sure they are going to get the business when our time is up and this bothers me a bit. Maybe we ought to get together and talk about it or see for sure that we are doing it so we don't get ourselves in a trap.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator, I appreciate your concerns and of course mine would be the same. I can't conceive of them actually soliciting people on welfare because from the mortician that I visited with in Omaha, they don't want to sign anything for a definite amount because they themselves know that in the future you know it would go up but by the same token I don't see them soliciting people on welfare because they usually feel that there is not that much money there. But I would be happy to work something out with you. If this bill isn't going to take care of that problem, we can certainly do it on Select File.