

his amendment can unduly hamstring that which you need to do to have in fact a state takeover. By the same token, this bill, we can watch this bill as it slowly moves across the board and we will see how this body responds to LB 816, and this body is prepared this year to literally pick up all the county medicaid costs, then that will totally, absolutely obviate Senator Kahle's concern and we can effect a full state takeover of the welfare system come July 1, 1983. If this body turns out not to be in such a mood, then 1983 with that slow phase in is an appropriate vehicle. So I think the better course is, though I am sympathetic with Senator Kahle, I think the better course is to reject the amendment and just to proceed, and then see what happens on LB 816.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan on the Kahle amendment.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I was going to withhold some of my comments until we were on the bill itself, but because of the Kahle amendment, I will have to address it now. Irrespective of whether or not the state takes over the county share of funding medicaid, we have got to make a change in the way we administer welfare programs in the State of Nebraska. We have got to make a change and we have got to make a change because it is too expensive to keep operating the system the way we are operating the system. Senator Johnson is going to give you some information later that tells you how our administrative costs compares to other states and it is high. It is much higher than most of the states in the Midwest and I personally think that we ought to be spending those funds on programs and not on administrators. I think that we have excessive number of people administering the welfare system in the State of Nebraska and we could do much better and we could run the system more efficiently and we could divert those funds either to programs or back to the taxpayer. So whether or not we actually eliminate that county medicaid burden, we have got to make a change and that is why Senator Kahle's amendment should be rejected. Today the county is paying part of the bill for the medicaid program and for welfare in the State of Nebraska, but I will contend and I think that the county commissioners in this Legislature would be very hard pressed to disagree with me that the counties have no real control over the welfare program. The counties have virtually nothing to say about the way those welfare program operates and any control that they really try to exert over the way the welfare program in the state operates is very ineffective at best with the exception of the general assistance program and the general assistance program is different in every county in the