

March 3, 1982

LB 522

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely. You want to call the question? Do I see five hands? All those in favor of ceasing debate will vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted on ceasing debate? Once more, have you all voted on ceasing debate? Record the vote.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate has not ceased. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President and Senators, just a week or so ago we passed LB 314. If you recall, it was the burial trust fund. I got started on that because of a little old lady in a nursing home that Douglas County had cut down from \$25 that the federal government said she was allowed to keep to \$17.50. I spent one solid month going between the State Department of Welfare and Douglas County Department of Welfare trying to find out if they could indeed take that little \$7.50 away from that woman. I finally got it resolved by putting in a conference call with the State Department of Welfare, with Douglas County Department of Welfare, and the woman's guardian in Omaha and me. That was the only way I could resolve it because Douglas County Welfare said, no, she is not entitled to any more than \$17.50 a month. The State Department says, wrong. The federal government says she has to keep \$25 a month. Now this is a case of where the county and the state could not agree, and after I got them all on the phone together, they finally agreed the state was right. Now it shouldn't have taken me a month to get that straightened out but it just kept footballing back and forth. One would say the other was wrong and the other would say he was wrong. So I think it would be a good thing for all counties and for the state if we had it all under the state and the state made the decisions. The cost to the taxpayer the way we are doing it now I think is a lot more than if the state administered it completely and, furthermore, over a year ago I talked with Douglas County Director of County Welfare, Mike Healey, and he told me at that time I would be more than happy to have the state take over the entire thing. I will be happy if they do and if I can remain a state employee, so the Douglas County Department of Welfare which is the largest one in the county said they don't have any objections to being taken over by the state and, therefore, I would hope that we would advance LB 522. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vard Johnson. We are still on the Kahle amendment only.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I would like to speak to the Kahle