

March 3, 1982

LB 522

that the savings are too great and we should affect that takeover July 1, 1983 and then phase in full state funding of the county share of medicaid. For that reason I would reject the Kahle amendment. If in fact this year this body passes LB 816, the new revenue sharing formula which totally takes care of county medicaid, then we don't need the six or seven year period in 522, but if it does not, we need a six or seven year period in 522 and the Kahle amendment is not good policy. I would ask that it be rejected.

SENATOR CLARK: Thank you for getting back on the Kahle amendment. Senator Kahle, do you wish to close?

SENATOR KAHLE: Thank you, Mr. President, and I, too, thank you also for getting Senator Johnson back on the Kahle amendment. As you notice, all the argument has been that we are trying to not turn over the management of the Welfare Department to the state. That is not my amendment's purpose at all. I think that any one of you if you had a business deal with someone would not turn over the controls until you had received the funding and we are doing no different than this with our state. I have grave concerns, we don't have the intestinal fortitude this year to raise the taxes to pick up even 2% of the program. You are staving it off until next year, mainly because this is an election year and no one wants to be counted. I just don't believe that we are going to face up to it next year either and certainly not to the extent of seven years in the future. My whole hangup in this thing is not whether we have state control or local control. I have my likes and dislikes about that but that is not the issue in this amendment. The issue in this amendment is that when you put up the money you get the control. Just that simple. And if you want to stave it off for seven years, so help me, that is what it will be. If you want to hurry it up and do it in two or three or do it this year, that is fine. As you all know, I have been one of the proponents ever since I have been in the Legislature to get rid of that county payment that the counties pay. We have whittled away at it. We have whacked off 2% and 2% in one bill and then last year another 2%, so from 20% we have gone down to 14%. Now you want to take another seven years, really it is about eight years I guess before you are going to wind up with the last payment, and that is just too long for me to take a chance on saying, well, the counties are going to have to keep divvying up, keep divvying up, and they aren't going to have any control. If you want to take it over, let's take it over and be done with it. So I would hope that you would support my amendment. I think it is the honest, upright, straightforward way to look at this situation.

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