

and the only way that I, and to the bottom of my heart, am convinced that we can do this is by at least having a state administered program because we are then in a much better posture to affect change as change is needed. Now, finally, what is the cost? Well the cost is this. In the end when the state takes on county assumed responsibilities the state has got to pick up costs that counties have traditionally borne. The cost will be \$20 million. If we later on in this session advance LB 816 which is the personal property tax relief program, that program calls for a total Medicaid bailout today at a cost of no new state dollars. Once that is done then when this bill comes into place July 1st, 1983, it literally adds no new cost to the state. So it strikes me that we are in the position today of doing what is the right thing with our welfare programs and it is for that reason this bill should be advanced. I would ask you to vote green.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I know that there are some good reasons for the bill which Senator Johnson has offered you here today and I know that there are persons here today who are going to change their mind and vote for the bill but I want to just point out to you and I have for many years suggested that if the state is going to tell the counties how to run this program, then they ought to pay for it, but there is one more thing I want to point out to you. This morning we're going to plant the seed that will grow into a giant tree one of these days and that tree is going to be located in an area of the State of Nebraska. I heard that Senator Johnson very wisely quoted the problem in Banner County but the problem really existed in Douglas County, Senator Johnson, and you and I both know it. When the funds for this program begin to roll they are going to roll from the State Capitol here to Douglas County and that is where the principal problem is. Now I just have to admire ability and that is why I am calling attention to what Senator Johnson did to you. He very wisely showed us what could happen, how devastated the budgets of Butler County or Banner County or Boyd County could be with one little problem like this but the facts are that the problem is going to be in Douglas County and it is going to be a serious one and the State of Nebraska is going to pick up that tab and it is going to be a substantial one. So I just want to tell you that regardless of what you do here, vote knowingly because you are going to pick up the responsibility for a substantial investment. I'm sure that Senator Johnson would point that out to you before he closes but I want to do it for him because we work closely together and in this instance I am not