

March 10, 1982

LB 522

going to vote for the bill but I want to say also that there is some merit, some substantial merit in what Senator VonMinden said about the local responsibility and it is true especially in the rural areas but I think it is true also in the urban areas that there are some people who can view these programs locally and tell more precisely whether or not they are being abused. This area is an area which lends itself to abuse as do many other areas. I have stood on this floor countless times and argued for support of the needy and I will do it again but I do not think we should support those who do not need to be assisted and I am a little bit concerned that if we place all of that responsibility with the State of Nebraska and do away with the local responsibility that we might not have the kind of supervision that we want. So at this time, Senator Johnson, I am sorry to have to desert you but I will not be able to support your bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator VonMinden.

SENATOR VonMINDEN: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I think senators here better be listening to this bill. We don't want to lose local control entirely. President Reagan says he would like to give some of the control back to the states. I think the states should be giving more back to the counties instead of taking more away from us. If this bill goes entirely down to the state government we will have no local control entirely over any of our welfare programs. The county will lose another control that they have and I sincerely think you'd better think twice before you give the local control back to the state. It is one more bureaucracy that we don't want and it is one more that we are going to get if Senator Johnson gets this bill through. I ask you, think about it, think what you are losing, especially to you outstate senators who came down here with the idea that you want more control. You don't want to give it entirely over to the state and we're going to lose it and we're going to lose it here today. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: We have about nine minutes left on the bill and I have five speakers. Senator Cullan is next. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I see two. Alright, I see five hands. All those in favor of ceasing debate will vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on ceasing debate? Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate has ceased. Senator Cullan, would you like to close on it?

8610