

little more. It is true that the County Officials Association are supporting the bill as it is written. But I have talked to some of the members, to some of the county officials in my district and they say, "Hey, let's hold up a little bit on this. We want to keep our finger on it. We believe that we can do a better job of controlling welfare costs than the state.", so I say to you here today, let's vote red on this bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Call the question.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Higgins calls for the question. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question is shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. The question is, shall debate cease. Record the vote, we don't have to wait all day. Record it, go ahead.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 18 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. We go on talking. Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I want to just make a couple of points on LB 522. Senator Von Minden thinks that if we have a statewide welfare system we will be shortchanging needy people. Now, do any of you here in this body think that I would bring in a legislative bill knowing that it would shortchange needy people? You are supposed to answer no to that rhetorical question. How come I got these affirmative responses? In the end, this bill will assist needy people rather than hurt needy people because this bill will lead to a more efficient and effective administration of welfare. Now I happen to think that it is wrong that our limited welfare staffers end up being malapportioned so that we can have some staffers in counties where there are few cases basically overseeing 35 to 30 cases per staff person and we can have some staffers in other counties where there are huge numbers of welfare cases responsible for 250 cases. I think that is just wrong. One thing a state administered system does is it allows a better allocation of workers so that you can have an even number of workers for an even number of cases. That assures more effective coverage. Now in terms of welfare recipients having to drive hundreds of miles to get to a local office, again let me tell you what happened in Iowa. Iowa went to a state administered system in 1973. Has Iowa literally eliminated any offices in any counties? No, it has not done that. What it has done is