

would reflect the same adjustment state employees would receive prior to the vote on the last amendment...and... but at least it puts a cap, which I think, will be beneficial to helping curb these expenses. What you are talking about is the reimbursement to the doctors, the chiropractors, the optometrists, that we are all concerned with in that their personal service reimbursement will only go up 3.75 for the next year in the reimbursement of those costs. I move the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I think this is an excellent idea of Senator Warner's but I think it should be carried a few steps further. What we are actually talking about here is price control. That is for those people who do business with the Department of Welfare. I submit if we are going to tell those people that they can not increase their prices more than 3.75% from last year's, that the state ought to adopt the policy that anybody that does business with the Department of Corrections or the Department of Health or our state colleges or the State Patrol. In other words if we are going to buy cars for the State Patrol, we aren't going to buy any cars if the price is up 3.75% over last year. All the food that we buy for all of our institutions, anybody wants to raise the price of food and the Department of Institutions or the Corrections Department that buys food for all of these different people, they should be notified too that we are going to put a price freeze on them. I think if it is good for one type of business, we should take it up with all businesses. I realize this is being brought about because of the recent idea of freezing state employees' salaries to 3.75 till October first, so I think it is a good idea Senator Warner. I think though what is good for the goose is good for the gander and perhaps we ought to amend the bill and have everybody come under this same limitation, not just those that are providing health care services but those that provide anything to the State of Nebraska. Then we would really tell everybody that we mean business about inflation and about cutting state costs. Maybe some of you would like to think about that. Thank you.