

March 23, 1982

LB 522A

SENATOR VonMINDEN: Mr. Chairman, a question of Senator Johnson, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Johnson, will you respond.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I shall.

SENATOR VonMINDEN: Senator Johnson, I have a letter here dated March 17th pertaining to all county commissioners and supervisors, a letter received from your office.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Right.

SENATOR VonMINDEN: It goes on to say what your bill does and what it will do, so on and so forth, a page here. Now on the second page it says, "If county officials generally want control over welfare functions, Senator Cullan and I will offer an amendment on their behalf to do the following things." And then after you have the amendment here you say, "though Senator Cullan and I do not personally support the amendment we will offer it should it become apparent that those supporting perpetuation," then you go on so forth with this here, so it says, "county county commissioners and supervisors, either you get on your senators and tell them to pass this bill or we're going to put an amendment on here," and one of the amendment is to, "Restore the County Medicaid share to its historical level of 20% of total cost." Now I doubt very much, Senator Johnson, whether you want to put a million and two hundred thousand dollars extra cost from Douglas County. One of the other ones here has received, "Require counties to pay the personnel costs of their welfare workers." Now I don't even know with the federal government funding the part of the program whether we can have such an amendment as that, but what I want to know, what is the motive of you sending these letters out to these county officials and county commissioners, trying to scare them in to write their senators to pass your bill or else? Because those people up there, Senator Johnson, I want you to know, they might be ignorant of what is going on down here but let me tell you, those people are not stupid. They know what they are doing. They'll learn and one of my supervisors came to me and he said, is this senator threatening me or what is he trying to do and I said, well I'll ask him the question.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, and I'm glad you did ask the question, Senator VonMinden. In fact, Senator Cullan alluded to this on the floor debate on 522 late last week when he said, the only basic argument that we really have heard against 522 from county officials has been what I