

meets the requirements of low income should be paid the amount specified by the Department of Health and Welfare. I think there is a strong legislative policy in the State of Nebraska recognizing the rights of the unborn child especially as far as ADC payments are concerned. I really appreciate and strongly support Senator Johnson's facts that he brought forward, that there is going to be a savings. We have already, with the federal cuts, are hurting the ADC recipients. I don't think we should go further and reduce their payments by an additional \$5 and I think he quoted you some figures and I thank Senator Johnson because I had not thought of all of that this morning and there is going to be a saving and I don't think you should penalize the pregnant women and I know the ones that received the payments since 1975 certainly appreciated the help they got from the state and they were able to carry their child to a full term with the help of the state and I oppose writing any letters of recommendation to the Governor or to the Public Health and Welfare. I would prefer to go with an A bill as Senator Cullan suggested we may have to do. Thank you.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker and Senators, I am reading this article that Senator Schmit put out and I want to go through it a little bit more in detail with you because it gives a little bit more of the facts about Douglas County and I think it is important that you understand that if we don't comply with the federal law, which I am in full agreement with Senator Schmit and Norman Krivosha, the Chief Justice, that this 10% fee is ridiculous and the Chief Justice said yesterday in the hearing that he fully expects the federal government to probably do away with that 10% fee because they have already begun to realize how ridiculous it was. But for the time being, right now, we have got to go with the federal government or this is what is going to happen in Douglas County and if it happens in Douglas County, eventually the state is going to be picking up welfare. Douglas County's office of Child Support Enforcement which collected over \$3 million in delinquent payments from parents last year could be disbanded if we don't go along with the federal regulations. Now this year they took this new office of Child Support Enforcement and where the Department of Public Welfare in Douglas County used to work on it, they split it and the Department of Welfare only goes after child support for women on ADC. But this special Child Support Enforcement that is 75% funded by the federal government, a year ago 800 cases were turned over to this office. Now the case load is 3,200 cases. We are talking about nonADC child support that the Child Support Endorsement (sic.) office takes care of and they are getting around 150 new cases a month.