

they may have, and that includes clothing, shoes, anything that they do with cutting hair, fixing hair, which...and Kleenex, all those special kinds of things that they might have to have. It simply does not reach any longer. Thirty dollars a month does not cover basic needs that they may have. So what we are asking here is an increase from \$30 to \$45 allowance for them. The second part, dealing with the burial expenses, again I can tell you first hand that we did have a set-aside for my father-in-law, the \$3,000 that is allowed today does not cover the cost. And we could give you an itemization of actual costs, for just an average funeral, which were given to us in the hearing. But what it comes to is that we all know about inflation, and \$3,000 does not pay the cost of a funeral today. So we're asking for an allowed increase in that set-aside also. I would be glad to answer any questions, if you have any. But simply it is that and I guess that we see a real need there, and I'm sure that some of you have had experiences the same way as we have with those folks in the nursing homes and in the case of the burial needs. So we would just ask for your support in the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion, Senator Pirsch, followed by Senators Rod Johnson and Schellpeper.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. I have a question perhaps of Senator Wesely, if...did you draft the bill, Senator Wesely?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah.

SENATOR PIRSCH: You had mentioned the former sum was \$30, and I don't see that in the statute that has been deleted. Is that in statute, or is that just a rule and regulation?

SENATOR WESELY: That's a rule and reg that the Social Services Department (interrupted).

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, so we are putting it into statute then for the first time, that personal allowance.

SENATOR WESELY: Um-huh, yeah.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, thank you.