

September 30, 1992 LB 3

SENATOR SCHMIT: My question, what is this going to do to the availability of foster parents?

SENATOR MOORE: Well, to my knowledge, none. I don't know how it could.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay.

SENATOR MOORE: Foster parents sign up and they get a stipend that is not that much.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Uh-huh.

SENATOR MOORE: Now, I don't know how this could impact what foster parents sign up.

SENATOR SCHMIT: All right. What happens then if we do not...if the state does not take this responsibility, where does the money come from for the education of the children?

SENATOR MOORE: The property taxpayers.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay. Now, you see, we like to give simple answers to complex questions. And, Senator Moore, having been Chairman of the Appropriations Committee for just a very brief period of time, has learned how to silence the average individual. The facts are these, Senator Moore, and you know very well that if I am a foster parent and I have to take that cost of educating that child to my local school district, that I am going to be sharply discouraged from being a foster parent because of the impact upon the property tax. Is that not right?

SENATOR MOORE: I disagree.

SENATOR SCHMIT: All right, if the state can't afford it, and a good point was made, if the state cannot afford to take care of a ward of the state, why does it then become the responsibility of the school district?

SENATOR MOORE: Because that child is residing in a taxpayer's house.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you. Resides in a taxpayer's house because the foster child does not have the access to parents of its own. That is the not the sort of situation which exists