

it sets, as a maximum, instead of a stated dollar amount, the amount comprised in the standard of need. It would increase the amount that people on assistance would be entitled to and would receive. I want you all to understand exactly what it is that I'm trying to do. I don't believe that the current amounts offered by way of assistance are adequate. They are very, very inadequate. I have a handout which I haven't had the opportunity to copy yet so you'll just have to take my word for it, that when it comes to the amounts of assistance which are provided, Nebraska is forty-sixth among the states. I think, if I recall from what I read to you this morning, New Hampshire is at the top with over \$1,000 and it's talking about the amounts available to the same size family for the purposes of the comparison that was made. I have found the sheet, but I won't try to...maybe I'll try to have it copied and handed out to you so that you can review it yourself. Now I can roll a little better because the information will be in your hands and you won't have to just take my word for it. I don't believe that when we offer assistance to people it should be such a small amount that it does not achieve the purpose that assistance is designed to achieve. There has been so much discussion throughout the country and in individual states about the public not wanting to have welfare as it exists now and that it has failed. Between now, between this morning and the time we came back this afternoon, I had an opportunity to have conversations and I was reminded of the fact that some people wind up needing public assistance because they get injured on the job and are unable to go back. They need voc rehab and are on a long waiting list and these are people who were injured on the job and they had worked all of their adult life, but now they're in a situation where they need help. If we're going to cut them off after two years, there would be a better likelihood that they would have the opportunity to get themselves in a situation where they can launch from that plank which we are making them walk and have a chance not of falling into the ocean and drowning, but maybe getting enough momentum to make it to the shore. These amounts that we're offering are not that large. The standard of need is not that large an amount. With the adoption of the committee amendment, the standard of need would be raised, but even with that increase the amount would be about 60 percent of the poverty level, I think. It doesn't even bring people up to the poverty level. So we are not putting anybody on easy street, we're making it more likely that people may not be out in the street. Maybe some people will look at this handout that is coming to your desks now and say Nebraska is