

April 3, 1973

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the body, I just want to make two quick points. One is that we are all aware of the inefficiencies in the distribution of Aid to Dependent Children. There is no defense of that and we are not voting on that today, and by cutting down the amount of money that would be available in the fund that is administered, probably, on an inefficient bases will not make it efficient. It will just make less money available to the children and that is all, and we should not punish the inefficiencies and the bad operation of some bad regulations by not funding the money for the children. Now the other day we had the people up here from Kansas City at the Federal level to tell us how Revenue Sharing was going and would be happening in the future. A specific question was that there is in the Revenue Sharing rules a "hold harmless" clause that no state in the union will be receiving less money than they received last year. I believe with all of the changes in the regulations, I do believe that that is what they mean and I do believe that's what the people of the United States want and I believe that that's what will happen and I suggest that we not tamper with 235, that we at least leave in 80% of the money and get on with the business of the Legislature.

PRESIDENT: Senator Moylan.

SENATOR MOYLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as you all know I don't often rise to talk on a bill. However, since I have been in the Legislature I have been concerned about the less fortunate people of our state and this is what this bill pertains to in my estimation. And I don't very...all the time agree with Senator Schmit on the bills he introduces. However, I think he has a very worthy bill here. Now there is mention of people who if we pay this amount of money of people coming into the state because of the benefits. Well, I have known people who have moved out of the state because they could get better benefits in other states. In fact, I know people that went to California because they got better benefits on ADC than they could get in Nebraska. I don't think there is any question about the amount of money that we are paying here. Yes, there will be abuses of it, but what program do we have that there are not abuses of and what, perhaps, any member in this Legislature has abused some program themselves. I think it is high time that we move this bill on to Final Reading and pass it so the least we can do for the unfortunate, less fortunate children of our state.

PRESIDENT: Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, after hearing my name so highly honored I felt I should stand up and point out that I voted for the Governor's Public Assistance Budget which increased it from 103.5 million to 108.8 million which is a 5.3 million dollar increase. This is a 5.1% increase over what is estimated will be spent during the fiscal year 1972-73. Now this means that if Senator Schmit's bill is passed, that not only will we have this extra 5.3 million but we will also have the extra millions involved in his bill. I recall here sometime back when our County Commissioners wanted to help the children in a certain area. The children did not have shoes for their feet and they were giving the money to the parents. The father was taking the money, spending it foolishly on himself and not spending it on the children. If it were possible for us to actually earmark extra money for the children, I would be in favor of it, but we can't do that. The Federal government won't let us. Now, I feel that this state of Nebraska should sometime in the future try to do this, to get more money for the children, but it just isn't possible for state government to do it because in order to comply with the Federal program we have to comply with what they do in order for us to get the money.