

April 20, 1979

LB 138

that is inevitable not to even be considered.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Forty-five seconds.

SENATOR WARNER: So with that, Mr. President, as I indicated, I cannot support the advancement of the bill and I would urge the body to do likewise.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I guess I would like to ask some of those who have spoken against Senator Lewis' amendments some clarifying questions, perhaps for some guidance as to what exactly is the philosophy behind this bill, if it is not property tax relief and I guess Senator Kahle and perhaps Senator Johnson and Senator Nichol, kind of three different counties across the state. I guess I would like to ask each of you if what you are trying to do with this bill and what you are saying to the Legislature is that it is impossible for county government to stay within the 7% lid that we have imposed, pay the cost of Medicaid and the increasing cost of Medicaid without cutting necessary services? Is that...Senator Kahle?

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Fowler, I'm sure that if you talked to your people here in Lincoln, the county board and also those of you from Omaha, you will find out that it is impossible. I believe that in Douglas County, if the figures are correct and I have them here. I could look them up. 37% of their budget goes for welfare.

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay, fine.

SENATOR KAHLE: That won't work. 7% will not work.

SENATOR FOWLER: Yes, okay. Senator Johnson, I would ask you the same question from the Douglas County perspective. Is it possible for Douglas County to stay within a 7% lid, pay the Medicaid cost without cutting necessary services?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Under LB 1 it probably is not possible for Douglas County to stay within the 7% lid, pay the Medicaid cost and not cut essential services.

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay, thank you. And, Senator Nichol, if I could ask...I know you just came in but I am trying to get a sense of I guess what the counties across the state have told and my understanding is that basically the philosophy with 138 is to say that the counties cannot stay