

SENATOR HABERMAN: Fine. Then, Senator Johnson, I'm afraid that you're asking this Legislature to buy a pig in the poke because who and what...who's going to decide what is encompassed in all of these broad things, and who is to decide and on what basis are they going to decide what these needs are? Because when you say items incidental to household operation, education, personal needs and transportation, I can't support you with such a broad, broad description of items like this, because if the people who decide the rules or the criteria for these two items I brought up, are liberal minded this thing could get way out of control. So I'm going to have to ask that you consider being more specific in what you mean about this. Also on another page you have that the department shall allow actual cost to the applicant or recipient for that necessity but not to exceed 125 percent of the actual statewide cost. Now this tells me that if someone determines what the statewide cost is, that it can be exceeded 125 percent...well 125 percent of what? I mean where is the basis...what are we starting out at? I'm afraid that I'm going to have to oppose your amendment up until the time that you can be more specific as to dollars and cents and just exactly what you're talking about. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson, do you have a comment? We have one minute left on LB 35.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I kind of thought, Mr. Speaker, that fifteen minutes might be a little short for this particular bill. Interestingly enough the reason I did respond negative to your comments, Senator Haberman, is because the Welfare Department presently now does use a standard of need concept in the administration of the welfare programs, but the figures that they put into the standard of need are really off the wall figures. They are not figures that they have carefully arrived at. For example, I will read you the definition of the standard of need. I picked it up while you were talking. In the Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled Program the standard of need reads this way. The standard of need is a consolidation of items necessary for basic subsistence with amounts based on unit size. Included in this standard are food, clothing, sundries, home supplies, utilities, laundry, telephone, garbage collection and recreation. Also included in this standard amount are meals prepared away from home, therapeutic diet, special clothing allowance, meals furnished to household employees, and blahty blah, but the actual costing out of those items is something which the Welfare Department does not do. Twenty