

April 1, 1980

LB 789

utility payments over the previous year, and this percentage of increase varies depending upon the type of fuel, but it is specifically spelled out, but to date the average subsidy per household through the Nebraska Energy Assistance Program for those who are eligible it has been \$220. Now, as I have suggested, perhaps a more appropriate measurement is that that was used in LB 596 of the last session, and when using that even at existing standards we would find that the current payments are even above what would be required by the language contained in LB 596. However, I am not suggesting that we make no increase. I think that some increase is appropriate but my concern is that perhaps this one is too much. I think it is not unreasonable that the total payments for ADC families are used to compare with the poverty income. On existing... at the existing rates with 789 a family of two receives about \$49 over the poverty guidelines per month, three is \$104, four is \$160, up to six is over \$270, but it seems, in fact, if we were to strictly follow the provisions of LB 596 there would be a decrease in ADC payments which again I would not support nor do I advocate. One of the things that is interesting to me and we shouldn't...and this would affect very few but it is actual figures nevertheless....

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have a minute left.

SENATOR WARNER: Actual figures show that one adult with two children being employed at an amount that they are allowable, could have the equivalent of \$11,484 a year, or almost at the level of what the average income of state employees under the Department of Personnel put at the lower end which is more significant. The equivalent of total services amount to \$6936 per year. My amendment would be the equivalent of \$7,176 a year and the bill as it stands is at \$7,368 a year. It seems to me that also when you look at the thrifty food plan that has been proposed by the Department of Home Economics as late as November of this year, they indicate that using the thrifty food plan, a family of three, one adult and two preschool children, could get along on \$115.50 a month considering that food stamps provide up to \$147 adequate allowance under the use of the amendment as I am proposing would at least permit these families to have a thrifty food plan and some additional funds for nonfood purchases. And finally a comment I would make that we did pass LB 138 last session two years ago to reduce the county impact in these areas...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Time is up, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: ...and it seems, you know, wise to again