

March 23, 1981

LB 39

you all know that if we pass 39E and 39A that it will move on until Final Reading or to Select File where it will be held up with the rest of the A bills. But this is one of the issues that have been a sore thumb for counties for a good long time and I have had the experience and know what I am talking about. They are required to put up the funding. They get a bill each month from the state as to how much they are to pay. They don't even know how much to budget because they have no power at all in budgeting. So I just feel that we should continue to take off a little bit each year and help the counties out because it does bring tax relief no matter how you figure it, and it is direct and it affects everybody in the state, not just the urban and rural areas as I try to separate them occasionally, and actually I think in this one the urban areas probably do every bit as well as the rurals. But it is a program that the counties are required to pay and have nothing to say about, or very little. So I feel that we should continue to take off a little bit of this each year so it doesn't shake our budget up to a great extent, and if there should be some changes made in our Welfare program it has to be done at the state level. I visited with the Governor a little bit about this and we do provide about as many different services in our welfare system as any state around us. So maybe that is something we need to look at, but the counties certainly cannot control that. That's done at the state level. So I urge you to support LB 39 and I move that it be moved to Select File, or to E & R Initial. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we continue with the discussion on LB 39, in the north balcony are 140 young people from 65 counties of northeast Nebraska, the Northeast Farm Bureau, Youth Citizens Seminar, Mr. Beverly Adkins is the leader. Will you hold up your hands so we can see where you are? Welcome. In the south balcony from Senator Warner's District, 15 students from District 69, Lancaster County, Denton, Nebraska, guests of Senator Rumery, Carol Baumert, teacher, in the south balcony. Will you raise your hands so we can see where you are. Okay. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would like to speak in favor of LB 39. This bill is the second time the Public Health Committee has considered the question of county assistance in the medical Medicaid program which the state participates in with the federal government. We did pass a bill that Senator Kahle talked about two years ago which decreased the figure from twenty to sixteen percent.