

May 29, 1981

LB 561

PRESIDENT: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate cease? The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: All right, the motion carries. Debate ceases. Senator Schmit, you may close on your motion to suspend the rules. All right, Senator Schmit, you are on.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you. As Senator Vard Johnson touched upon it, what we are doing here if we vote an increase, is that we are expressing a vote of confidence in those children who do not know their perhaps grandparents and uncles and aunts and cousins and brothers and sisters. They are children who have, as again Senator Vard Johnson expressed it, perhaps not come into the world as much wanted as some others were perhaps, but they are children nonetheless. We argue long and eloquently on this floor about protecting the unborn and I have argued for that, and I will continue to do so. But I want to argue with the same amount of emphasis upon helping those individuals who are here in this world and are attempting to make the best of their own situation. As I said myself, I know what it is to raise a family. It is not easy. It makes it many, many times more difficult for a single parent family. It is many times more difficult for a woman who is trying to raise these children or a father perhaps without the emphasis that is placed upon the family life. They have many more problems than we have as normal families of husband and wife, etcetera, and so forth. I think that to add to that burden the financial worrying that comes from any parent not knowing whether or not they will have adequate assistance for their family, food and clothing, shelter, is to add an unnecessary burden. With the state of a billion dollar budget or something more or less of that, General Fund appropriations of \$750 million, I do not argue that the appropriations for this program are not substantial. They are. What I am saying is that those of us who have the resources can borrow upon them to meet the ravages of inflation. Those without resources have nowhere to turn but to us. If I am going to make a mistake, Senator Koch, I have made a mistake on state aid. I don't think I did, I think I voted with you on that, but the point I want to make is this, that if we are going to worry about educating the children that we are, we first must raise them to that point and have them in good mental and physical