

April 16, 1985

LB 201

Could we please have your attention. You're talking a little loud and we can't hear the speaker. Thank you, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: LB 201 is a simple bill. It will call for an expenditure of about \$150,000 this year and about \$409,000 next year to simply make certain that we can provide a reasonable financial support network for women with high-risk pregnancies. If done, I am of the opinion and most scientists are of the opinion that that kind of financial commitment will save the state millions and millions of dollars over the long pull when children are born healthy, when children live after birth, it will reduce infant mortality, it will have a very salutary effect. That's the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, then Senator Withem.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Johnson, a question, please.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Would you respond, Senator Vard Johnson, please.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Could we put this bill into effect without creating a new advisory committee? Couldn't we put it in the Health Department or some committee? Do we have to go through and create a brand new advisory committee?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: It will be in the Health Department...the Health Department tells me they feel they need to have the advisory committee because that will help them with the program in the field. I suspect we need the advisory committee.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Is the fiscal note true, \$283,587?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: That's for financial assistance to needy mothers. That's not for the advisory committee.

SENATOR HABERMAN: No, but that is what it will increase the cost the first year?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.