

GENERAL FILE

March 11, 1971

PRESIDENT: Move to the consideration of LB639. Clerk will read the title.

CLERK: Read title. LB639
There are no committee amendments

PRESIDENT: Senator Wallwey

SENATOR WALLWEY: I move that this bill be moved from General File to E & R initial.

PRESIDENT: It has been moved and seconded that LB639 be advanced to E & R initial. Clerk will read the amendment.

CLERK: Read amendment. LB639

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Stanmer

SENATOR STAMMER: Mr. President, Members of the Body, the material that was just read by the Clerk in essence, is substituting the provisions of LB522 for the bill as it would otherwise stand. In essence, what this amendment would do is set the minimum payment at the budgetary standard set by the state, less the additional net income of the family. Now, I would like to speak for a moment on this bill. It is very important. The state sets budgetary standards for people on Welfare. I'd like to have all the members of this body to recognize these facts, committee heard this in the testimony. These standards are set for all persons, be they young or old, blind or crippled or whatever and people on ADC. We have these standards that we set as a minimum for 2 people to live on or 3 people to live on or 4 people to live on. But only in the case of the ADC recipients do we turn around and then say, "oh no, we didn't really mean what we said", we want to strike this reference to minimum standards and we want to prescribe a lesser amount for this category of personage. As I pointed out to the committee on Health and Welfare, our motto is equality before the law. We say we want to treat people equally, we set budgetary standards at a minimum for all people and then we turn around and revoke what we are saying. Now I would urge this body to adopt this amendment to set the budgetary standards and let it apply to all people up to and including ADC recipients. The monies can be found and the monies are available in this state to do what I am suggesting here. I would urge the members of this body to consider a few of the following things, namely that we have fewer people in 1970 on Welfare in the state of Nebraska than we did in the year 1942. Utilizing the figures provided by the Welfare Department and adjusting for inflation, we are actually spending now, less money in Nebraska on welfare than we did in the year 1942. I would urge the adoption of this amendment as a humanitarian measure to treat all people equally in this state.