

Bill advanced to increase dependent children aid

The Legislature Thursday advanced to the second stage of floor debate a bill which would increase the amount of money available for aid to dependent children.

With a vote of 25-0, the Legislature voted to increase state support to dependent children by 17 percent or \$4 million.

Dependent children are in families whose income is below federally recognized poverty levels.

The amended bill would change the

dollar amount from \$250 to \$293 per month and would count the mother and first child as one dependent. Each additional child would be eligible for state support of \$71, an increase from \$60.

An amendment to the bill, which was also approved by a vote of 25-0, would allow fathers who are unable to work to be counted as a dependent and also receive \$71.

Sen. Glenn Goodrich of Omaha, who co-sponsored the bill along with Sen. Ernest Chambers of Omaha, said he wanted the

fathers included in the bill.

If a father is unable to work and does not receive government support, then he is a liability on the mother and child, Goodrich said.

Sen. Orval Keyes of Springfield expressed concern that the Legislature would appropriate more money than the state could afford.

However, Sen. Vard Johnson of Omaha supported the bill. He said that even the 17 percent increase provided by the bill would not be enough. According to welfare department figures, those receiving aid to

dependent children would need an increase of 30 percent to keep up with inflation.

"This is a very modest effort on our part," Johnson said. "If the bill fails we will have fallen short of the mark to help our needy families."

"Even if we pass the bill we will be taking a shot in the dark at helping our needy families because we don't know what (how much) it takes," he said.

Sen. Dave Landis of Lincoln agreed with Johnson, saying that \$4 million may not be enough.

"We are, in fact, still striding behind of where we should be," Landis said.

short stuff

The Latin American Student Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

The UNL Folk Dance Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Mabel Lee Hall 119.

Quentin Faulkner, professor at the UNL School of Music, will perform a recital on the Bendient organ at the Wesley House, Sunday. Faulkner will play J.S. Bach's Art of Fugue in two recitals at 4 and 8 p.m.

Prof. C. Bradley Moore of the University of California, Berkeley, will speak on laser induced chemistry at 3:30 p.m. today in room 112, Hamilton Hall.

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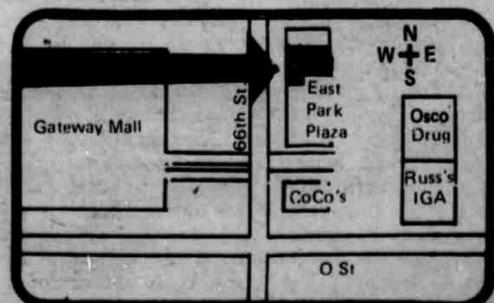
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