

here. We are not going to get off of one bill and on to another. We have done that before and it doesn't get us anywhere.

SENATOR NEWELL: Did the Clerk read the amendment?

CLERK: Read. (See page 1476, Journal.)

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the purposes of this amendment is to basically clarify just who has the responsibility of trying to track down those parents who may be paying child support. Now the original purpose of this bill was to shift the responsibility. Since that time, there has been some amendments that further shift the responsibility to the point where we don't know who has the responsibility for collecting child, what is it when their father pays, child support, right. I knew exactly what I was talking about. The contention here by the introducer of the bill is that the county attorney's office would be in a better position to collect the money. The State Welfare Director feels that he doesn't want to have that responsibility and the point that I would like to make is that what we have now and the way the bill presently reads is that both of them have the responsibility, consequently, neither of them have the responsibility. It is a duplication of cost as to finding out who is suppose to collect this money and we can do this by setting one or the other and I propose to strike the county attorney and have the Welfare Director continue with that task. Thank you.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The matter before the House is the Newell amendment. Any discussion on the Newell amendment. The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I oppose the Newell amendment with all due respect to Senator Newell. I would disagree with the substance of the situation. I believe that I am correct. I do not believe that the fears that the Douglas County people have are well founded. The bill has been before the Public Health and Welfare Committee. Mr. Lott of the County Attorneys Association, Eldin Ehrlich, many people have spent many hours in my office attempting to draft that bill to meet everyone's objections. As I said earlier, it is another bill in a series of four or five bills that we have had over a period of years. If the bill is not drafted correctly, it is an honest mistake and I believe it is drafted correctly. I believe it meets the legitimate concerns of everyone involved and I would ask you to oppose the Newell amendment and advance the bill.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise in favor of Mr. Newell's amendment. I have some of the same concerns that he has. We have now adopted an amendment which makes it the dual responsibility of the Public Welfare Department and also the County Attorney's office to collect these child support payments. I think that it is very easy for either one or the other to dodge this responsibility conveniently and I feel it should rest with the Public Welfare Department where it has been for quite some time. Implementing such a system will cause Douglas County