

once child support collection is placed within the criminal justice system, all of the integrity, all of the safeguards of due process must come into play when we deal with any situation that is called upon to utilize the criminal justice system. So I think due process requires that the amendment being offered by Senator Johnson be accepted. This amendment is not saying people should not support their children. It is not saying that those who are able to support their children and refuse to should not be cited for contempt and jailed as other people are who are found in contempt of court.

SENATOR CLARK: You have 15 seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It is saying that before you reach the point of locking the person up, every due process safeguard accorded others facing this situation ought to be accorded these individuals, so reluctantly I must support his amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President and fellow Senators, I have been to court several times with women who had been unable to collect their child support, and you Omaha Senators will remember Judge Sam Coniglia when the fellow appeared before him and when asked, why haven't you been making your child support payments? He said, your Honor, I have been saving my money for an operation. And the Judge said, what kind of an operation? And the father said, I have been saving money for a sex change operation. And Judge Coniglia said, the only thing you are going to change is your address, 30 days in jail. And before eight hours was up, he paid his back child support. I have a friend who I personally went to court with and her husband or ex-husband was \$1400 behind in child support. So while at the court we pointed out to the judge that he had just two months previous to that bought that year's new model Chevrolet. So the judge gave him 30 days, and within one hour and a half he was back with \$1200. All he did was pick up the phone and get the money. I am not an attorney but I have been told that when you go to court without an attorney you stand a heck of a lot better chance in most cases than the one who has an attorney because the court then becomes a friend of the one without an attorney. And I think we should recognize, Senators, that this amendment is going to propose a whole new bureaucratic program. We have a public defender's office in Douglas County and I don't know if all of the counties in