

Nebraska have it, but it costs money to defend criminals, and if this amendment is adopted, then we are going to have to start paying attorneys to do what judges now do for free. When a man comes before a judge or a woman, and they are being asked, why didn't you pay your child support, I have yet to see a judge that will throw a man or a woman into jail who says, your Honor, you can check the records, I have been out of work for six months. Your Honor, I am doing the best I can, I am holding down two jobs, but I have got a family to support from the second woman I've married and I'm having a tough time to make it. My experience, and I have had a lot of it in these particular courts, is that judges are extremely lenient. One young woman whose husband was behind 12 months, he came up to the judge without an attorney, no attorney, and he plunked out \$200, and the judge looked at her and he said, well, will you accept this? She says, your Honor, I have used up Mastercharge. I am up to the maximum I can charge on that. I am paying 18 percent interest on it. He is \$1200 in arrears. I have got a \$100 a month to pay to support two children and you are asking me, will I accept \$200 in lieu of \$1200? And the judge said, what do you want me to do, put him in jail? He can't pay you from there. Now the judges have the discretion to put them in jail from five o'clock at night until seven o'clock in the morning. They don't use that discretion. But they could put a man or a woman in jail after working hours so they don't lose their job, but our judges don't do that. And, frankly, next year Senator Higgins is going to introduce a bill that is going to make it mandatory for the judges to do that if they keep letting these people off the hook. I am sick and tired as a taxpayer of supporting some other man's children or some other woman's children when they are perfectly capable of supporting them themselves. Someone mentioned here the other day about teenagers being taught sex instructions and responsibility for their actions, what about the people that get married and bring children into the world, then they get a divorce and say, hey, man, I need a new car; hey man, I've got another woman or another man to support, I can't take care of my first responsibilities.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have ten seconds.

SENATOR HIGGINS: So I have to go against this amendment from a moral standpoint and also from the standpoint of I don't want to see a new bureaucracy created in the State of Nebraska. Thank you, Senators.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.