

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I think we have gotten a little bit emotional here lately and this amendment while really not too relevant to the bill itself may have some merit or may not. I wish you really would think of this not so much from jeopardizing the bill or not because it really isn't that important to the bill. I think the bill is important, but as far as the amendment is concerned, the judges now really have the right to put the person in jail. They have the right to appoint counsel for them if they are going to put them in jail. And while the judges catch a lot of flak on this floor, I think for the most part most judges are quite reasonable. The only thing this says is what they already have in motion for them is that they may appoint an attorney for a man or lady if they are going to put them in jail because they haven't been making their child support payments. That is fine with me. They do it anyway. If you pass the amendment it is all right. If you don't, they will still do as they darn well please as far as this particular point is concerned. So regardless of which way this amendment goes, I hope you remain on board and support the bill because that part is important.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I echo everything that Senator Higgins has said. I want also to point out that Senator Nichol is entirely right that the judges do an excellent job of protecting the rights of that poor, defenseless, weak, hopeless, poor individual who can't pay his child support, who just desperately wants to take care of his children but for somehow or other they always appear before the judge well fed, well clothed. I would like to ask Senator Johnson except he will use up most of my time, these attorneys are not going to represent that individual for nothing. You know, the reason I became interested in this issue was because without exception in the old days when a wife tried to collect child support and she went to a lawyer, the first thing the lawyer said was, I want \$150 or I want \$300, and without exception the woman said, well, if I had \$300 I wouldn't be looking for my child support. So it was an endless chain and it was a trap in which the woman could not, from which she could not escape. But you can be darn sure that that individual who so desperately wants to feed his children is going to have the \$150 bucks or the \$300 bucks for the attorney, or that attorney is going to show him the door in one big hurry. You know, the thing that I can never understand, Senator Newell, is