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LB 167

think that we have a...without something like the Beutler amendment we are going to have a real hodgepodge for county treasurers and everyone else. If you think you have got trouble now, wait until you get this on the books, because they are not really going to have the direction as to how to figure that interest. There is one more thing I want to bring up. I am going to offer another amendment for this bill as soon as I can get it up here. Some of you have been around here long enough to remember when I added a bill to the statutes about '74 or '75 that said that delinquent child support would collect interest at the rate of 9 percent. I just checked with the County Clerk in Lancaster County and.... I mean the Clerk of the Court in Lancaster County, and the Clerk of the Court in Douglas County. I have been informed that less than \$5000 has been collected under that bill since it was enacted, that in Douglas County which has anywhere between \$70 and \$100 million of uncollected child support, God only knows, they have collected less than \$2000 of interest. I think the point I want to make here is this, it seems awfully strange that we can be so righteous and so profound and so intelligent and we demand that the taxpayer pay the county or the city the going rate of interest, but no one in this body, except myself, has ever give a damn whether the women that have that child support coming first of all collect the child support, or secondly, collect any interest on it. I really can't understand the double standard. You expect the county, and I think you are right, the county is expected and should collect those rates of interest somewhat comparable to the cost of the money, but we have totally ignored the law as it pertains to the collection of interest on child support. I think we have established a double standard here. I want to say one more thing in regard to this rate of interest. There is a danger in a 14 percent rate. I believe that when we establish that rate we imply that interest rates are going to remain that high at least for another year. I hope that is not true. I wish there was some way that we could tie the rate of interest for the delinquent taxes to the cost of the money, and I think at some time if interest rates remain volatile we are going to have to do that because we are going to have to find some way to encourage the payment of taxes on a regular basis without necessarily penalizing unjustly the individual when the cost of money declines. I will not support this rate unless we adopt something...an amendment such as Senator Beutler has asked for, because without the Beutler amendment you have an ambiguous wording in the law which is not going to be satisfactory. I would suggest that this might be a good