

some contact, or influence, or whatever, with the judges. So I would greatly appreciate if you would follow through on that for me and ask them. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam President and members of the Legislature, to follow up just a little on what Senator Haberman has said, I have handed out, for your notice, copy of an article in the World-Herald this morning by Mr. Paul Hammel. Headline says, "Child Support Bills Pivotal, Backers Warn". I wanted to commend Senator Schellpeper for introducing LB 457, and I understand exactly what he's trying to do and what his deep concern is. It's been 20 years since I took an interest in child support bills, and if you go back and check the record, you will find that virtually every bill that drastically changed the child support statutes of this state were my bills, up until a few years ago when we began bundling them up. I might say prior to Senator Chizek's tenure the Judiciary Committee did what I consider to be kind of a disservice to the child support statutes, trying to help, but they didn't do very much good. I understand now I've got to talk to Senator Lindsay, because he is reducing the interest rates on child support payments from the usual 14 to a much lesser amount, and I want to talk to him about that sometime also. But the point I want to make is this, and I hope that all of you will listen, there's a note on top of that article that I handed out, and this is a fact, if the district court judges, if the clerks of the district court, and the county attorneys follow the law as it is specified today, there is no way that anyone can be more than 30 days late with their child support. The facts are they do not follow the law, and probably the largest unpaid bills in the State of Nebraska today are the hundreds of millions of dollars that are owed in back child support, much of it uncollectible. Further, I want to specify very plainly that oftentimes child support is awarded to a mother when the district court knows that the father has never supported the family, is not even present, perhaps, and will never support the family in the future. So when they award the child support they have to know that the mother is going to have to be subjected to humiliation and all sorts of other problems because she's not going to get child support, and child support will accumulate on the books that will never be collected. That is wrong. When Mr. Spire was Attorney General we had a very flagrant case where a constituent of mine was jailed because of fraud. She hadn't reported some extra income,