

and, thank you, Madam President, I may turn my light back on.

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

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members and Senator Haberman, hi, Rex, there probably isn't any greater miscarriage of justice in the State of Nebraska today than the failure of the system to enforce the child protection laws of this state. As a result of that failure thousands upon thousands of children suffer needlessly and enter into the real world with handicaps which many of them carry throughout their entire life. I was appalled 20 years ago when I learned that there really wasn't any effective enforcement of child support orders in the State of Nebraska. Here and there a district judge would follow up upon his order and mandate the payment of child support, but for the most part the collection of child support was left up to the custodial parent. In most instances he or she would have to contact an attorney and up front 300 to several thousand dollars to try to pursue the noncustodial parent for child support. Needless to say, most of those individuals, if they had that kind of money, would not be desperate. Most of the time they did not have the money to hire an attorney. Therefore, I led the way on this floor many years ago to put into place a system which would, in fact, I thought, make almost automatic the collection of child support payments. I am concerned about these bills and I commend Senator Schellpeper and Senator Smith and Senator Beutler for their efforts because their hearts are in the right place, but I have a couple of questions to ask. If the district court of the State of Nebraska, if the clerks of the court, if the county attorneys cannot enforce the collection of existing child support orders and do, in fact, allow hundreds of millions of dollars of child support payments that are due and owing as of this time, if they cannot collect those dollars of child support, then how are we going to mandate a Department of Social Services which does not have any of the authority of the clerk of the court, the county attorney, nor the district judges, how are we going to mandate that they enter upon a program to determine if the child support was adequate, needs to be adjusted up or down, when in most instances the vast majority, the majority of instances, child support orders are not being enforced today. I challenge anyone to prove that untrue. I don't know of very many that are current. We have some, of course, that are. The vast majority are not. There is about a \$300,000 price tag on this bill. Ladies and gentlemen, you just as well send it back to the printer. It will cost