

3 million. There isn't any way you can scratch the surface in this area if you follow the mandates laid down by the feds. Another point I want to make is this. The federal government has screwed up about everything they have tried, let alone to get into the enforcement of child support. I appreciate very much the effort to collect child support by virtue of collecting it from the...before the money is paid to the individual who owes it, but I can tell you very frankly then that is only a small part of the problem. Most times, probably three-fourths of the time the district court judges have told me financial reasons are the reason for the divorce. That is the reason that a family breaks up, dispute over money. Once the family breaks up that problem is not...does not become less, it becomes more. It becomes greater.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And as a result we find then a continued disparity in the ability of the custodial parent to collect. I have no objections to the best intentions in the world, ladies and gentlemen, but it is totally misleading to the custodial parent and to the children to pass these bills without acknowledging today that the present system does not work and I think we ought to try to bring about the enforcement of the present law prior to the time that we load up the statutes with additional recommendations, requirements that need to be carried out by a state agency because if we don't, we're going to just increase that financial burden to the state with no corresponding benefit to the young people who are involved. Last, and I want to say this most sincerely, many of the costs you have to bear here in the system today, the criminal justice system, many of the costs we have in our school systems...

PPRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...many of the costs we have associated with law enforcement and the prison system are, in fact, due to the fact that we do not, have not, will not and I do not anticipate in the future enforced a collection of child support so those children have a square shot at their chance in the world. I would hope that others will speak on this before we leave these bills. Thank you again.

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