

difference in the ability of a custodial parent to care for their children. but there is one thing that you cannot live without and you cannot work without and you cannot function without and that is cash on the barrel and until this body is willing to maybe do what our colleagues did this morning with the property tax system before Senator Chizek, Lindsay, Will and Lynch and said, wait a minute, let's find out just what the heck is fair here. They may or may not agree with him, but the facts are that once in while you just got to back up and take a look at the forest instead of putting your nose up against the tree trunk and thinking you know all about it. If we were to solve the problem of collection of child support, let's solve that first. It has been with us for many, many years. It continues to grow every year. Every time we get into any kind of a recession, any kind of a depression, any kind of a layoff, it becomes even more serious. Once we have addressed that problem, this situation here says that there may be 4,000 cases reviewed annually about which 2,000 they think probably would have some justification. Let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, I believe that if you were to add up all of the complaints that come before our offices in a year's time, you'd have more complaints than that because based upon the complaints we receive in our office and we are not an area where there are a lot of divorces filed. Our rural areas just do not seem to have as many divorces, but the facts are that those situations are serious and they are tragic and I have said before, we are now placing a burden upon the Department of Social Services. I don't think we're going to give them enough money. I think that we're going to approach it, no matter how they approach it, they are not going to solve the problem, they're not going to be able to address the problem. We have a serious problem right now with foster children. We have not been able to solve that problem. We have not fully funded the number of case workers that were supposed to have been provided to take care of foster children. Ought not that be our first major priority, to take care of the children who have no parent. Admittedly, one parent is a handicap situation. But no parent is much worse. As a result of our inability to solve that problem, we are today moving children in and out of homes the way a cattle feeder runs cattle through a gate, many, many times in a years time, 10, 12, 15, the height, I think, was 27 different placements for one child. I think we have an obligation to those children that perceive this obligation, and then I think we could substantially improve the situation if this Legislature were to meet with the court and say, let's do the thing the law requires you to do,