

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit would move to return for the purposes of striking the enacting clause.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I want to make it clear that I do not in any way want this motion to be considered a questioning of Senator Beutler's intent. I know that he acts in good faith when he introduced this bill because frequently on the floor we all do the same thing in an attempt to meet federal requirements. I do want to point out that I believe this is one of the worst kind of bills that we can possibly enact into law. It is a total acquiescence with a federal intervention in a system which is not working, will not work and is not going to work until at least someone at the local level decides to make it work. Present laws on the collection of child enforcement (sic) are adequate, totally adequate if they are enforced. It is a fact that they are not enforced. They are, in fact, ignored by most county attorneys even though the districts, clerks of the district court do routinely provide to their offices and to the district judge the amount of delinquent child support that is outstanding in their respective counties. To add to the responsibility of the Department of Social Services the requirement that they review periodically the amounts of child support that is owed or owing and the amount of income that is being earned by the noncustodial parent and then determine whether or not that should be adjusted is an absolute exercise in ignorance and stupidity. There are plenty of those cases pending today before the courts. They have clogged the courts. They're not being treated very well and this is one more example of bureaucracy gone wild. The Department of Social Services is responsible for the foster child program. They do not have the resources to do that well. We are giving to them the additional responsibility of enforcement of child support collection in a manner which has heretofore never been thought of. I want to emphasize again that the outstanding burden of unpaid child support is probably the largest single outstanding debt to the children of this state and there's no real organized effort to collect it. There's no real organized effort to follow the law. Many district judges ignore the law. Many county attorneys ignore the law and, in fact, if the statute were enforced which says that the failure to carry out their responsibilities were enforced, you could remove every single county attorney from office in the State of Nebraska today